

A Revision of the Australian Jumping Spider Genus *Prostheclina* Keyserling, 1892 (Araneae: Salticidae)

BARRY J. RICHARDSON*¹ AND MAREK ZABKA²

¹ CSIRO Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
barry.richardson@csiro.au

² Department of Zoology, University of Podlasie, 08-110 Siedlce, Poland
marekzabka@ap.siedlce.pl

ABSTRACT. The genus *Prostheclina* is commonly found in collections made in the wetter parts of eastern Australia from South Australia to northern Queensland. The type species *P. pallida* and six new species, *P. amplior* n.sp., *P. basilonesa* n.sp., *P. boreoaita* n.sp., *P. boreoxantha* n.sp., *P. eungella* n.sp. and *P. bulburin* n.sp. are described. Both sexes are described for all species except *P. boreoaita* (male only). Remarks on the biology and known and predicted distribution of each species are given.

RICHARDSON, BARRY J., & MAREK ZABKA, 2007. A revision of the Australian jumping spider genus *Prostheclina* Keyserling, 1892 (Araneae: Salticidae). *Records of the Australian Museum* 59(1): 79–96.

The genus *Prostheclina* and a single included species, *P. pallida*, were described by Keyserling in 1882. A further two Australian and twelve American species have been described since. All of the latter were removed to other genera by Simon (1901) and Bryant (1950). The genus (including the three Australian species) was synonymized with *Saitis* by Simon (1901), a proposal rejected by Davies & Zabka (1989) for *P. pallida* but not for *S. signatus* (Keyserling, 1883) and *S. insectus* (Hogg, 1896). The genus *Saitis*, as used for Australian material, includes a number of ill defined species, none of which belong to *Saitis sensu stricto*. The type material for neither *S. signatus* nor *S. insectus* could be found. The description of *S. insectus* is poor and revision of the generic placement of the species could not be made. Neither the collection location (central Australia) nor the patterning of the abdomen shown in the figure match that of any of the species considered here. The figure of the female

genitalia of *S. signatus* in the original description shows the species does not have a pair of adjoining fossae or the other characteristics of *Prostheclina* given below.

Prostheclina is clearly identifiable by the presence of a single combined conductor and embolus in the male and pear-shaped spermathecae, partly posterior to the pair of adjoining fossae, in the females (Davies & Zabka, 1989). Though often found in collections made in southeastern Australia, no species, other than *P. pallida*, have been described. Variation in size and secondary sexual characters, however, are conspicuous in males and the observed patterns are discontinuously distributed. Similar situations are found in other jumping spiders, for example, in the American genus *Habronattus* (Griswold, 1987). As well as re-describing *P. pallida*, six new species, namely: *P. amplior* n.sp., *P. basilonesa* n.sp., *P. boreoaita* n.sp., *P. boreoxantha* n.sp., *P. eungella* n.sp. and *P. bulburin* n.sp. are described in this work.