

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

First record of *Stenus* Latreille (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Steninae) from Tasmania, Australia

In his revision of the Australian species of *Stenus*, Puthz (1970: 55) noted the 'occurrence of *Stenus* in Tasmania is not known at present but highly probable'. Reid (1997) presented new distributional records and ecological information on the Australian *Stenus* species, and reiterated the apparent absence of *Stenus* in Tasmania. It was surprising that no *Stenus* had been collected in Tasmania, a fact no doubt in Puthz' and Reid's minds when making these observations. The focus of most collectors on forest and high altitude environments, rather than riparian and wetland habitats might partly explain the absence of *Stenus* in earlier collections. During a recent collecting trip to Tasmania, however, the author collected a single male specimen of *Stenus villosiventris* Lea 1899 from the coastal lowlands of northeastern Tasmania. The collection data for the specimen is:

AUSTRALIA: TASMANIA: Little Pipers River, 13 km WSW Bridport, 20–30 m S bridge on George Town - Bridport Road (B82), (41°02.6'S 147°15.2'E), alt. 30 m; washed from muddy, sedgy, banks of small pools of perennial stream, 12.ii.2000, N. Porch. (male, dissected by Volker Puthz).

Further sampling for *Stenus* in Tasmania is required to ascertain the distribution of *S. villosiventris* and whether more than one species of *Stenus* is present. On the basis of mainland Australian climatic requirements estimated from their distribution data using BIOCLIM - a bioclimatic modeling program (Houlder *et al.* 2001) - northeastern Tasmania is predicted to have suitable climates for several Australian *Stenus* species including *S. pustulifer* Fauvel, *S. puncticollis* MacLeay, and *S. cupreipennis* MacLeay. Mainland Australian records of *S. villosiventris* in Puthz (1970, 1972), Reid (1997) and Porch (unpubl.) do not, likewise, predict its presence in Tasmania, presumably reflecting the paucity of knowledge on the distribution and environmental requirements of this species. This lack of detailed knowledge applies to most, if not all, members of the genus in Australia.

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Literature Cited

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