

Colpochila Erichson, 1843

Taxonomy

Sub family: Melolonthinae / Tribe: Liparetini / Genus: *Colpochila*

Distinguishing Features

Medium to large cylindrical beetles, Body length 11-33mm. Body colouration black, reddish, yellowish or brown, not metallic. Clypeus with a rounded apex. Labrum situated below and not fused to the clypeus (clearly separate), commonly with an anterior cavity. Anterior face of labrum as deep or deeper than anterior face of clypeus. Antennae 8-9 segmented, with 3/4/5/6/ or 7 lamellate club. Pronotum anterior margin with a membranous border. Propygidium and penultimate ventrite separated by a suture on each side. Apical spurs on the hind tibia widely separated, so that the tarsi can pass between them. Tarsal claws simple.

Related and Similar Species

There are around 133 recognised species of *Coplochila*. The genus resides in the tribe Liparetini which share the following features:

Body colour not metallic. Apical spurs on the hind tibia widely separated, so that the tarsi can pass between them. Claws simple, lacking teeth. Labrum located below clypeus, clearly separate. Mesosternum without a forwardly projecting process. Abdominal ventrites lacking longitudinal ridges. Tibia strongly expanded at their apices, lateral profile of hind tibia concave between the transverse spinose ridge and the apex.

Colpochila can be distinguished from the other Liparetini in the key (*Liparetus*, and *Costelytra zealandica*) by their much larger usual size, and greater number of antennal club segments (3 segmented for both *Liparetus* and *C. zealandica*).

An updated key to the genera of Australian Liparetini can be found in Weir et.al. (2019).

Biological Data

Biological information for most *Colpochila* species is unknown.

Larvae are soil dwellers, feeding on organic matter and roots. Adults are foliage feeders, active from dusk till dawn and attracted to lights.

Distribution

The Genus *Colpochila* only occurs in Australia. Species can be found across all Australian states and territories, from inland central grasslands and semideserts, to Far North Queensland and Tasmania. Higher speciation occurs in dryer areas, and around half of the known species occur in Western Australia.

References

- Britton, E.B. 1986. A revision of the Australian chafers (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae) Vol. 4. Tribe Liparetini: genus *Colpochila*. Australian Journal of Zoology Supplementary Series. 34.
- Britton, E.B. 1990. A synopsis of the Australian Genera of Liparetini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae). Invertebrate Systematics, 4 (1), 159-195
- Weir T.A., Lawrence J.F., Lemann C., Gunter N.L. 2019. 31. Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae Leach, 1819. In: Australian Beetles. Volume 2. Archostemata, Myxophaga, Adephaga, Polyphaga (part) (eds A Ślipiński & JF Lawrence) pp. 516–530. CSIRO, Clayton, Australia.



Colpochila gibboscillis dorsal view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



Colpochila gibboscillis lateral view

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Colpochila gibboscillis ventral view

Photographer:

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Colpochila gibboscillis clypeus

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Colpochila gibboscillis head front

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