

# *Liparetrus* Guérin-Méneville, 1831

### Taxonomy

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

### Distinguishing Features

Small shiny beetles, 3-14mm in length. Body colouration black, reddish, yellowish or brown, not metallic. Elytra shortened, leaving propygidium mostly exposed. Clypeus with a varyingly shaped apex-crenulate, sinuate, truncate, curved/rounded, or emarginate forms have all been recorded. Labrum located below clypeus, and separated by a suture. Antennae usually 9-segmented, rarely 7-8 segmented. Antennal club always 3-segmented. Metacoxae usually with pale transparent margins. Propygidium often fused with penultimate ventrite into a continuous ring around the pygidium. Foretibia usually bidentate. If tridentate, then the third tooth is not close to base of tibia. Tarsal claws simple.

### Related and Similar Species

There are around 240 recognised species of *Liparetrus*. The genus is a member of 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.

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

Separating features:

Within the key, *Liparetrus* is closest to *Coplochila*, but they are generally much smaller in size (3-14mm compared to *Coplochila* 11-33mm), and only ever have a 3-segmented antennal club (varying from 3-7 segmented in *Coplochila*). Key genera defining features are also the posterior coxae being pale and membranous/translucent in most *Liparetrus*. If darkened/opaque, the penultimate ventrite lacks a suture separating it with the propygidium.

A key to the species of *Liparetrus* can be found in Britton (1980).

### Biological Data

*Liparetrus* are usually found feeding on flowers or foliage of various species of *Eucalyptus*. Adult emergence can be brought about by rain.

Larvae are soil dwellers, feeding on organic matter.

### Distribution

*Liparetrus* are found only in Australia, and can be found across all Australian states and territories. The majority of species can be encountered through inland environments. Nearly half of all species are known from Western Australia.

### Useful Links

(PDF) Britton (1980) A revision of the Australian chafers (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae), 3. Tribe Liparetini: genus *Liparetrus*: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/zs/pdf/ajzs076>

### References

Britton, E.B. 1980. A revision of the Australian chafers (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae), 3. Tribe Liparetini: Genus *Liparetrus*. Australian Journal of Zoology, Supplementary Series 76, 1–209.

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.



*Liparetrus* sp. dorsal view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Liparetrus* sp. lateral view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Liparetrus* sp. ventral view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



*Liparetrus* sp. head front view

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*Liparetrus* sp. clypeus

Photographer:

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*Liparetrus* sp. metacoxae

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