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Review of the Australian Genus *Pentachaeta* (Diptera: Heleomyzidae), with Descriptions of Nine New Species

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**ABSTRACT.** The taxonomy of the forest-dwelling flies of the endemic Australian genus *Pentachaeta* McAlpine, 1985 (family Heleomyzidae or Heteromyzidae), is investigated, with particular reference to structure of the male genitalia. The number of described species is increased from one to ten. The following new species are described: *Pentachaeta edwardsi*, *P. bickeli*, *P. inserta*, *P. bassiana*, *P. skusei*, *P. gilliesi*, *P. impar*, *P. kirkspriggsi*, *P. pinguis*.

The genus *Pentachaeta* has been known to me for many years, as indicated by the collection dates on some of the material listed below, but only the type species, *P. physopus* McAlpine, 1985, has yet been described. It now appears that sufficient material is available to characterise most of the species, at least for male specimens, but the females of some species cannot be easily identified from morphological characters.

I have placed *Pentachaeta*, together with the little known Chilean genus *Dioche* McAlpine, in the tribe Pentachaetini of the subfamily Trixoscelidinae (McAlpine, 1985; 2007). This classification is based on slender morphological evidence and should be subjected to detailed molecular evidence, when suitable material is available.

The structure of the protandrium, hypandrium, and aedeagus of the male abdomen varies greatly among the tribes of Heleomyzidae, so that it may be taken to indicate a polyphyletic origin for the so-called family (see Griffiths, 1972). However, some more detailed species-level studies (e.g., in the Allophylopsini by McAlpine, 1967, and the Borboroidini by McAlpine, 2007) indicate that gross divergence in characters of the male postabdomen often begins during or immediately following the speciation process, so that major structural differences can occur between quite closely related groups.


The following abbreviations refer to institutions holding collections:

- **AM** Australian Museum, Sydney
- **ANIC** Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra
- **MV** Museum Victoria, Melbourne
- **QM** Queensland Museum, Brisbane
- **SAM** South Australian Museum, Adelaide
- **USNM** National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.
Pentachaeta McAlpine


For diagnostic description see McAlpine (1985). The genus is keyed among the Australian heleomyzid genera by McAlpine (1985: 204–206) and McAlpine (2007: 155–156). The general coloration is distinctive for the genus: thorax largely pale tawny-orange with narrow brown longitudinal stripe on region of humeral callus and notopleuron; wing with one continuous broad brown anterior stripe covering entire costal margin and separate brown mark surrounding discal (posterior or dm-cu) cross-vein (Fig. 1). These features, together with the following conditions of chaetotaxy make the genus easily recognisable among other Australian acalyptrate flies: single vibrissa strongly developed; postvertical bristles rather large, strongly convergent from bases; propleural (proepisternal) bristle large and isolated; mesopleuron (anepisternum) without setulae or bristles; dorsocentral bristles five large subequal pairs (Fig. 2). Size range is indicated by a wing-length of between 2.5 and 4.8 mm.

Figure 1. Pentachaeta pinguis, northern form, female (13 km N of Ravenshoe).

Male postabdomen

Within the genus Pentachaeta there is fairly consistent structure of the postabdominal parts (with a few exceptional conditions in some species) and some contrast with the structure so far observed in other heleomyzid tribes. The incompletely known Neotropical genus Dioche shows some agreement with Pentachaeta in hypandrial structure. The structure of the protandrium (the male postabdominal segments immediately preceding the genital segment) has been described for Dioche and Pentachaeta by McAlpine (1985). Other male postabdominal structures are here considered in more detail, but I do not here follow the terminology previously used for P. physopus (McAlpine, 1985: 213, fig. 22).

The epandrium bears a pair of large surstyli, visibly articulated at the bases but usually not very freely so. In several species the inner basal surface of the surstylus has a group of stout setulae, and sometimes these are located on a basal prominence (e.g., Figs 5). The subepandrial cuticle is not markedly sclerotized except, in most species, for a distally setulose subepandrial process which arises on each side near the base of the surstylus. This is perhaps homologous with...
the “process of sternite 10” illustrated by Gill & Peterson (1987: figs 11,12) for a heleomyzine example, though differing in form. This structure was identified as “surstylus” by Gorodkov (1963: fig. 2b), who used the term “edita” for the processes usually termed surstylus or surstyle. It remains to be decided whether the subependrial process in these heleomyzids is homologous with the anterior epandrial process occurring in some taxa of Helosciomyzidae and related sciomyzoid families (see McAlpine, 2012: fig. 14).

The hypandrium (Fig. 3), with its associated structures, including the aedeagus, is very distinctive for the genus. The fork plate (Gabelplatte) consists of a pair of longitudinal sclerites, connected to each other anteriorly, and each narrowly connected posteriorly to a lateral sclerite bearing the gonostylus (postgonite). The gonostylus varies in shape but always bears a few elongate distal macrotrichia and sometimes a tuberculose distal zone. The basiphallus consists anteriorly of a pair of longitudinal sclerites, joined together anteriorly where they are attached to the aedeagal apodeme and posteriorly where they support the base of the distiphallus and bulb. The cuticle of the region of sternite 9 is recessed to form a pouch of which the basiphallus, the fork plate and the aedeagal apodeme contribute to the otherwise membranous lining, and into which the bulb can be withdrawn. The bulb is partly irregularly sclerotized and shows some variation in structure. In Pentachaeta impar n. sp. (Fig. 36) the bulb possesses two broadly tubular structures with funnel-like openings. It is uncertain if these openings are functional gonopores, but in other species the gonopore appears to be located on the distal part of the section here identified as the distiphallus. Posteriorly on each side the basiphallus has an elongate, minutely densely pubescent extension, which is connected to the posterior extremity of the hypandrium by a compact articulating sclerite.

The cerci are approximated but not basally fused, large, elongate, strongly setulose at least in part and often partly microtrichose (fine microtrichia not shown in my illustrations), projecting anteriorly from the elongate attachment to the ventral surface of the tip of abdomen. They are of variable but often highly specific form.

**Distribution**

Eastern Australia—mainly higher rainfall areas from Atherton Tableland, Northern Queensland, to Tasmania, also westward to Adelaide district, South Australia. See map (Fig. 4).

The species of Pentachaeta live mainly in wet temperate to subtropical forests, one species (P. gilliesi) extending into drier areas. The immature stages are unknown. From what is known of the ecological associations, the genus is unlikely to have economic significance.
### A. Males

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hind tibia (and sometimes other tibiae) swollen, nearly as stout as femur; fore tarsus variously coloured</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All tibiae relatively slender (as in females); fore tarsus entirely brown to blackish (except in <em>P. skusei</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Antenna black; palpus broadly tipped with black; genitalia as in Figs 40–42; habitat tropical Queensland</td>
<td><em>pinguis</em> n. sp., part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antenna yellowish to tawny (clean specimens); other characters various; habitat generally temperate Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Upper margin of sternopleuron brownish (unfaded specimens); only hind tibia swollen, fore tibia slender as in female; surstylus (Fig. 34) with few very large setulae externally, internally densely microtrichose</td>
<td><em>impar</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sternopleuron entirely tawny-yellow; both fore and hind tibiae swollen; surstylus with all setulae smaller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palpus broadly brown to blackish apically; fore tibia almost entirely brown; genitalia as in Figs 40–42</td>
<td><em>pinguis</em> n. sp., part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palpus entirely tawny-yellow; tibiae and genitalia various</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fore tarsus predominantly tawny-yellow; genitalia as in Figs 37–39</td>
<td><em>kirkspriggsi</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fore tarsus brown to black; genitalia as in Figs 43, 44</td>
<td><em>physopus</em> McAlpine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fore tarsus in large part tawny-yellow; genitalia: cercus as in Figs 27, 28, with anteromedial, non-marginal setulose tubercle; surstylus shaped as in Fig. 26</td>
<td><em>skusei</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fore tarsus entirely brown to blackish; cercus without such setulose tubercle; surstylus otherwise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cercus not much broadened at base of anterior lobe, which is elongate, not tapering (Fig. 30); surstylus moderately broad (Fig. 31)</td>
<td><em>gilliesi</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cercus very broad just before narrowing into anterior lobe; surstylus variable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Surstylus much broadened just beyond mid length, then abruptly narrowed at twisted apex (Fig. 23); cercus as in Fig. 24</td>
<td><em>bassiana</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surstylus slender; cercus diverse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bulb of aedeagus with several invaginated conical tooth-like sclerites (Figs 21, 22); cercus as in Fig. 19</td>
<td><em>inserta</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bulb of aedeagus without such invaginated sclerites; anterior lobes of two cerci diverging (Figs 6, 13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Anterior lobes of two cerci widely divergent from their origins, each with small, sharp medial tooth at its origin (Fig. 13)</td>
<td><em>bickeli</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anterior lobes of two cerci together forming V-shaped outline as they diverge, each without tooth at its origin (Fig. 6)</td>
<td><em>edwardsi</em> n. sp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B. Females [some not readily identifiable to species]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Antenna blackish; palpus broadly tipped with black; habitat tropical Queensland</td>
<td><em>pinguis</em> n. sp., part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antenna tawny-yellow, sometimes partly yellow-brown (clean specimens); palpus various; habitat mainly Australia S of 23°S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fore tibia entirely brown to blackish; palpus entirely yellow, not darkened apically</td>
<td><em>physopus</em> McAlpine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fore tibia largely tawny yellow; palpus variably coloured</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McAlpine: Australian Helomyzid Pentachaeta flies

3 Fore tibia not darkened apically ........................................... 4
— Fore tibia with brown apex (often with separate anterior and posterior apical brown marks) ........................................... 6

4 Upper margin of sternopleuron suffused with brown .................. impar n. sp.
— Sternopleuron entirely tawny-yellow ........................................ 5

5 Palpus brown to blackish apically ........................................... pinguis n. sp., part
— Palpus entirely tawny yellow .................................................. kirkspriggsi n. sp.

6* Fore tarsus with segments 2–4 largely tawny yellow .................. [probably] skusei n. sp.
— Fore tarsus entirely brown .................................................. [probably] inserta n. sp., bickeli n. sp.,
  edwardsi n. sp., bassiana n. sp., gilliesi n. sp.

* Hypothetical couplet as female of P. skusei is unknown. It is likely that tarsal coloration of females resembles that of conspecific males.

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**Pentachaeta edwardsi** n. sp.

Figs 2, 3, 5–10


Other material examined. 24 ♀♀, similar data to type material (AM, ANIC). These are associated with above males. While identification cannot be absolutely confirmed, they are not referable to other species recorded for Mooney Mooney Creek (viz. P. kirkspriggsi, P. physopus). 1 ♂, Richmond Range, Bonalbo district, Dec. 1991, S.F.M. 8163 (AM).

**Description (male)**

**Coloration** of head, body, and wings as for genus. Antenna and palpus entirely tawny-yellow. Fore femur almost entirely dark brown; mid femur entirely tawny-yellow; hind femur tawny-yellow with dark brown apex; fore and hind tibiae tawny-yellow with brown apices, the latter more strongly browned; mid tibia entirely tawny-yellow; fore and hind tarsi entirely dark brown; mid tarsus tawny-yellow with segments 4 and 5 dark brown.

**Thorax.** All tibiae slender.

**Abdomen.** Epandrium usually with two pairs of large dorsal bristles, contrasting with many small setulae; surstylus (Fig. 5) narrowly elongate, slightly broadened basally, with outer surface microtrichose on most of width except on c. distal third, with few, small setulae on parts of outer surface, on inner surface at apex not noticeably excavated, with few larger setulae and numerous minute ones some of which form a curved marginal series; inner armature consisting of low prominence or tubercle located on medial base of surstylus and bearing c. five to seven moderate-sized setulae (accurate count often difficult); subependrial process (Fig. 10) prominent with c. eight moderately long terminal setulae; gonostylus less prominent with usually three larger setulae and a few minute ones of which little more than their globular sockets are visible, without posterodistal scabrous zone; articulating sclerite with complex apex bearing one rather long setula and few globular sockets; bulb of aedeagus without series of separate sclerites or invaginated teeth on membrane; cercus (Figs 6, 7) anteroposteriorly elongate,

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Figure 4. Reference map for distribution of *Pentachaeta* species in eastern Australia. Numbers in each rectangle (2° longitude by 2° latitude) are numbers of recorded species. Map references are given under Distribution for each species.
of relatively simple form, without special processes (teeth or major tubercles), densely microtrichose except towards anterior extremity, most heavily setulose before mid-length, with anterior lobe subtriangular but obtuse, slightly dorsoventrally compressed, with medial margins of two anterior lobes forming a V-shaped sinus; apex of anterior lobe with small to minute setulae, some of latter forming a curved dorsal marginal series.

**Dimensions.** Total length, 2.2–3.1 mm; length of thorax, 1.3–1.6 mm; length of wing, 3.0–3.6 mm.

**Distribution.** Known mainly from the type locality on the northern side of Broken Bay in central eastern New South Wales; one specimen from far north-east of state. Map references 7J, 8H (Fig. 4).

**Notes**

Among the species with slender, unmodified hind tibia and entirely dark brown to black fore tarsus, males of *P. edwardsi* may be distinguished by the relatively slender surstylus (Fig. 5–10). *Pentachaeta edwardsi*, male; (5) surstly *in situ*, posteroventral view; scale = 0.2 mm; (6) oblique posteroventral view of epandrium showing cerci; setulae omitted except on left cercus; scale = 0.2 mm; (7) left cercus, lateral view; (8) apex of right surstylus, inner view; scale = 0.04 mm; (9) anterior apex of right cercus, ventral (outer) view; scale = 0.04 mm; (10) left gonostylus and associated structures, lateral view; scale = 0.1 mm. *as*, articulating sclerite; *g*, gonostylus; *il*, inner lobe of gonostylus; *pl*, posterolateral extension of basiphallus; *sp*, subepandrial process (superimposed on other parts in slide preparation).
5), having the basal fascicle of setulae on a short, broad gibbosity, and the anterior lobes of the cerci of simple form, without tubercle, together forming a simple V-shaped sinus, and each strongly setulose except at anterior apex. Females cannot at present be separated morphologically from those of the related species *P. bickeli*, *P. inserta*, *P. bassiana*, and *P. gilliesi*.

This species is dedicated to Frederick W. Edwards, whose careful editorial work and supplementary illustrations increased the value of J.R. Malloch’s (1933) publication on south-temperate “Helomyzidae”.

**Pentachaeta bickeli** n. sp.

Figs 11–17


Other material examined. Queensland: North Mimosa Creek, Blackdown Tableland National Park (Expedition Range), 800 m, Sept. 1992, D.J.B. (AM, QM).

**Description (male)**

Resembling *P. edwardsi* and related species without sexual dimorphism of tibiae; agreeing with description of that species, except as indicated below.

**Coloration** generally as for genus; details as given for *P. edwardsi*.
Abdomen. Surstylus (Fig. 11) elongate, shaped somewhat as in *P. edwardsi*, nearly parallel-sided from before mid-length, hirsute—with many long microtrichia except towards apex, these directed or much sloped towards base, with apex (Fig. 14) on inner surface slightly excavated and with setulae of various sizes, with basal tuft of setulae on elongate, slightly clavate process which is apparently sclerotized all round; subependrial process and gonostylus (Fig. 15) resembling those of *P. edwardsi* but rather differently shaped; gonostylus with posteroapical surface roughly pustulose and partly slightly excavate; bulb of aedeagus (Fig. 16) without invaginated conical pits, but, on left lateral surface-membrane, with many external short, narrow, subparallel sclerotized ridges, each c. 5–8 µm long (Fig. 17); cercus (Figs 12, 13) broadened anteriorly, with angular median projection, and anteroapical lobe gradually narrowed, widely diverging from that of opposite cercus, with surface very generally finely microtrichose approximately to apex of anterior lobe, with large setulae on mid to posterior part, sparser and much smaller anteriorly, anteroapical part with very few small setulae.

**Dimensions.** Total length cannot be measured; length of thorax, 1.6–1.9 mm; length of wing, 3.9–4.2 mm.

**Distribution.** New South Wales: mountainous areas in east of state. Queensland: only known from inland ranges, W. of Gladstone district. Map references 6E, 7J, 7K, 8I (Fig. 4).

**Notes**

*Pentachaeta bickeli* closely resembles other species with slender, unmodified male hind tibia, largely pale fore tibia, and entirely dark fore tarsus. Male postabdominal characters, particularly the shape of the surstylus, resemble those of *P. edwardsi* and *P. inserta*, but the species differs from *P. edwardsi* in the more elongate setulose tubercle on base of surstylus, in the differently shaped cercus with differently distributed setulae and small, angular medial projection almost level with its ventral surface, and in details of the subependrial process and gonostylus. It differs from *P. inserta* particularly in the shape of the cercus and the absence of invaginated subconical teeth on the aedeagus, but these are replaced by numerous minute external ridges (Fig. 17). I am unable to distinguish females from those of related species.

The specific epithet refers to Daniel J. Bickel who has collected significant material and given much support to this study.

**Pentachaeta inserta n. sp.**

**Figs 18–22**


Other material examined. New South Wales: Hungry Head, near Urunga (AM); Mongalowe River, Monga Road (ANIC); Clyde Mountain, Cabbage Tree Creek (ANIC); Rutherford Creek, Brown Mountain (ANIC); Tantawangalo Forest, near Candelo (AM); Saw Pit Creek, Snowy Mountains (AM); Maxwell’s Creek, Nadgee State Forest (AM). Victoria: Bucklands, East Gippsland (ANIC); Dynamite Creek, Bonang Highway (ANIC); Martin’s Creek, Bonang Highway (AM); Tunnel Bend, near Jamieson (AM); Myer’s Creek, near Healesville (ANIC); Fernshaw, near Healesville (AM); Warburton (AM); Belgrave, near Melbourne (AM,
MV, USNM); Sherbrooke Forest, near Ferntree Gully (AM, ANIC); Splitters Falls, Wannon River, and Mount William, Grampians National Park (AM). Tasmania: 2 miles [c. 3 km] east of Tonganah, Scottsdale district (AM); Pieman River, near Rosebery (AM); Renison Bell, Pieman River district (AM); “Nat. Park” [Mount Field National Park] (ANIC).

Description (male)
Resembling *P. edwardsi* and related species without sexual dimorphism of tibiae; agreeing with description of that species, except as indicated below.

Coloration generally as for genus; details as given for *P. edwardsi*. 

Figures 18–22. *Pentachaeta inserta*, male, Mount Wilson; (18) pair of surstyli, posteroventral view; structures on inner surface of basal half seen through transparency; scale = 0.2 mm; (19) pair of cerci, oblique ventral view; setulae shown only on left cercus; scale = 0.2 mm; (20) left gonostylus, subependrial process, and associated structures; scale = 0.1 mm; (21) bulb of aedeagus, left lateral view, showing invaginated sclerotized teeth; scale = 0.1 mm. *Pentachaeta inserta*, male, Belgrave; (22) left lateral view of aedeagus; scale = 0.2 mm. ab, aedeagal bulb; as, articulating sclerite; bp, basiphallus; dp, distiphallus; eh, sclerotized extension of hypandrium; g, gonostylus; il, inner lobe of gonostylus; pl, posterolateral extension of basiphallus; ss, minutely scabrous sclerite of bulb.
**Abdomen.** Surstylus (Fig. 18) moderately elongate, only slightly tapering distally, with many long microtrichia on c. basal two thirds of length on outer surface, apically rounded with very small setulae, some crowded at extreme tip, with one or few larger setulae on subapical part of inner surface, with tuft of short to medium-sized setulae on very short cap-like, slightly convex sclerite at base of inner surface, often a moderately large setula located near tuft; subependrial process (Fig. 20) moderately slender, with large but not dense setulae; gonostylus tumid and rounded distally, with rather large setulae and some smaller posterior ones, without scabrous or pustulose zone, subtended by a simple sheathing lobe; aedeagus (Fig. 22); membranous surface of bulb with six to ten invaginated, subconical sclerotized teeth of various sizes; cercus (Fig. 19) densely microtrichose, except anteriorly, not much broadened near mid-length, but slightly gibbous before anterior extremity, which forms a simple, anteriorly directed, slightly narrowed papilla bearing minute setulae, in contrast to large setulae on most of length of cercus.

**Dimensions.** Total length 3.1–3.5 mm; length of thorax, 1.6–1.7 mm; length of wing, 4.0–4.3 mm.

**Distribution.** New South Wales: mainly mountainous districts, but recorded for North Coast (Hungry Head). Victoria: widely distributed as far west as Grampians National Park. Tasmania: probably widely distributed. Map references 3L, 4L, 4N, 5L, 5N, 5O, 6K, 6L, 7J, 7K, 8I (Fig. 4).

**Notes.** Among the species with predominantly pale fore tibia and no sexual dimorphism of the tibiae, males of *P. inserta* are distinguished by the form of the cercus, which lacks distinctive armature, the distally rounded gonostylus, which lacks a scabrous or pustulose zone, and by the presence of invaginated conical teeth on bulb of the aedeagus (Figs 21, 22). Nothing approaching these structures has been observed in other species.

The specific epithet is a Latin adjective referring to the invaginated teeth inserted in the bulb of the aedeagus.

**Pentachaeta bassiana n. sp.**

Figs 23–25


Other material examined. Males. Victoria: Belgrave, near Melbourne (AM, MV).

**Description (male, females not yet identifiable)**

Resembling *P. edwardsi* and related species without sexual dimorphism of tibiae; agreeing with description of that species, except as indicated below.

**Coloration** generally as for genus; details as given for *P. edwardsi*.

**Abdomen.** Surstylus (Fig. 23) with basal foot extended narrowly on margin of epandrium posteriorly, much broadened near and beyond mid-length but contracted to short, narrow apical section, on most of outer surface densely microtrichose but with few minute macrotrichia, apically with several larger macrotrichia on inner surface, basally on inner surface with compact sclerotized tubercle bearing few short macrotrichia; subependrial process (Fig. 25) somewhat resembling that of *P. edwardsi*; gonostylus more nearly resembling that of *P. bickeli*, with typically three long macrotrichia and scabrous zone which varies from slightly convex to slightly concave; aedeagus without invaginated teeth; cercus (Fig. 24) somewhat elongate, but expanded anteriorly to mid-length, with the pair of anterior lobes strongly diverging, each apically compressed, rounded and slightly twisted, outer surface with large macrotrichia.

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**Figures 23–25. Pentachaeta bassiana (23) pair of surstyli, posteroventral view (Marakoopa Caves); structure on inner surface of basal half seen through transparency; scale = 0.1 mm; (24) pair of cerci, oblique ventral view (Belgrave); setulae shown only on left cercus; scale = 0.2 mm; (25) left gonostylus, subependrial process and associated parts (Marakoopa Caves); scale 0.1 mm.**
posteriorly, minute ones anteriorly, and with general covering of microtrichia, but without distinctly angular outline and tubercle.

**Dimensions.** Total length 3.3–3.6 mm; length of thorax, 1.5–1.8 mm; length of wing, 4.1–4.6 mm.

**Distribution.** Tasmania: probably widely distributed. Victoria: vicinity of Melbourne. Map references 4L, 4N, 5N, 5O (Fig. 4).

**Notes**

*Pentachaeta bassiana* belongs among those species without sexual dimorphism of the tibiae and with entirely dark male fore tarsus. Among these, the male has the surstylus with quite distinctive shape (Fig. 23), and the cercus is also characteristic. The specimen examined from Belgrave, Victoria, differs from the Tasmanian specimens (Marakoopa Caves and Hellyer Gorge) in having the surstylus slightly broader, the anterior lobe of the cercus shorter, and the setulae on the subependrial process and gonostylus more numerous. These differences are slight, and study of more material is needed before significant divergence between the Victorian and Tasmanian populations can be accepted.

The specific epithet has the form of a Latin adjective and refers to the occurrence of the species on both sides of the Bass Strait.

**Pentachaeta skusei n. sp.**

Figs 26–29


**Description (male)**

Resembling *P. edwardsi* and related species without sexual dimorphism of tibia; agreeing with description of that species, except as indicated below.

**Coloration** generally as for genus; details as given for *P. edwardsi* except as here noted. Fore femur orange-tawny, becoming brownish dorsally (perhaps faded in old type specimens); fore tarsus with segments 1 and 5 brown or largely brown, segments 2 to 4 pale tawny-yellow; mid tarsus tawny yellow, indistinctly brownish distally in faded specimens; hind tarsus dark brown.

**Abdomen.** Surstylus (Fig. 26) ovate-lanceolate, distally gradually tapering to obtuse apex, outer surface extensively microtrichose, also with scattered short but rather stout setulae, which may be more numerous on posterior part of outer surface, apical part of inner surface with few setulae of variable size and marginal group of minute setiferous tubercles, at base of inner surface fascicle of short, stout

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**Figures 26–29. Pentachaeta skusei, male, Govett’s Leap (26) pair of surstyli, posteroventral view; setulae shown only on left surstylus and on prominence of inner basal surface of right surstylus (latter seen through transparency); scale = 0.2 mm. Pentachaeta skusei, Belgrave (27) epandrium with cerci, setulae shown only on left cercus and dorsal tubercles; scale = 0.2 mm; (28) medial view of anterior lobe of right cercus; scale = 0.1 mm. Pentachaeta skusei, Govett’s Leap (29) left gonostylus, subependrial process and associated parts, lateral view; scale = 0.05 mm. as, articulating sclerite; dt, dorsal setulose tubercle of cercus; eh, sclerotized extension of hypandrium; g, gonostylus; pl, posterolateral extension of basiphallus; sp, subependrial process.**
setae, either not arising from a common prominence, or on very slight prominence; subependrial process (Fig. 29) with numerous stout setae towards apex and on inner surface; apex of gonostylus with three or four large setae and sometimes few much smaller ones, with flat or slightly concave postero-distal densely pustulose zone; bulb of aedeagus without invaginated teeth; cercus (Figs 27, 28) narrowly extended posteriorly, much broadened across base of anterior lobe, with pair of anterior lobes strongly divergent, at broadest part with prominent dorsal (and thus partly concealed) setulose tubercle (Figs 27, 28), on exposed ventral surface with extensive armature of large setae, becoming sparser and finer on anterior lobe.

**Distribution.** Total length 3.2 mm; length of thorax, 1.3–1.6 mm; length of wing, 3.4–4.0 mm.

**Notes**

*Pentachaeta skusei* belongs among those species without sexual dimorphism of the tibiae and with the fore tibia tawny yellow with brown apex. It differs from other such species in having segments 2 to 4 of the fore tarsus tawny yellow (dark brown in related species). The form of the surstylus (Fig. 26) is distinctive, though somewhat resembling that of *P. gilliesi*, but the male cercus is very different (compare Figs 27 and 30). I suspect that the unknown female will be distinguishable from related species by the coloration of the fore tibia and tarsus, as in the male.

This species is dedicated to Frederick A. Skuse, the first Diptera specialist employed at the Australian Museum.

**Pentachaeta gilliesi** n. sp.

Figs 30–33


Other material examined. Males. Australian Capital Territory: Black Mountain, near Canberra (ANIC, AM). Some female specimens from the following localities are associated with males of *P. gilliesi* and perhaps may be conspecific: Sunders, near Hackham (SAM); Blackwood (SAM); Black Mountain (ANIC).

**Description (male)**

Resembling *P. edwardsi* and related species without sexual dimorphism of tibiae; agreeing with description of that species, except as indicated below.

**Coloration** generally as for genus, with some details as in description of *P. edwardsi*.

**Abdomen.** Epandrium with only one pair of well differentiated dorsal bristles; surstylus (Fig. 31) less elongate than in *P. edwardsi* and *P. inserta*, somewhat narrowed distally, but very obtuse, on outer surface with many short microtrichia and very few small macrotrichia, on inner surface near apex with macrotrichia of very diverse sizes (Fig. 32), near base on inner surface without usual fascicle of setae, but with one to three long setae in a series approaching subependrial process; subependrial process forming short, broad setulose tubercle; gonostylus bilobed, anterior lobe with few large setae, posterior lobe separately prominent, with few minute setae but no scabrous or pustulose zone; bulb of aedeagus without invaginated teeth; cercus (Fig. 30) scarcely produced posteriorly, anteriorly very prominently elongate, almost parallel-sided, towards anterior apex obtuse, minutely setulose, posterior half of cercus setulose, with many of larger setae in a single series.

**Dimensions.** Total length 2.6–2.9 mm; length of thorax, 1.2–1.3 mm; length of wing, 3.2–3.6 mm.

**Notes**

*Pentachaeta gilliesi* closely resembles *P. edwardsi* and related species and is at present only distinguishable from these on male postabdominal characters. The long, narrow cerci (Fig. 30) are so distinctive that males with these exposed are easily identified. Another distinctive feature is the presence of only one pair of stout dorsal bristles on the epandrium, and the form of the surstylus (Fig. 31) is fairly distinctive, though somewhat resembling that of *P. skusei*.

This species is dedicated to William Gillies, whose elementary but thoughtfully prepared book (c. 1909) served as my childhood introduction to entomology.

**Pentachaeta impar** n. sp.

Figs 34–36

Figures 30–33. Pentachaeta gilliesi, Mount Bonython (30) epandrium with cerci, showing right subepandrial process and basal prominence of right surstylus; scale = 0.2 mm; (31) pair of surstyli, posteroventral view; setulae shown only on left surstylus; scale = 0.2 mm; (32) apex of left surstylus, inner surface view; scale = 0.05 mm; (33) left gonostylus, lateral view; scale = 0.05 mm.


Other material examined. Queensland: Summer Creek, Little Yabba Forestry Road, near Kenilworth (AM); Mount Glorious, near Brisbane (AM); Mount Tamborine (AM); Binna Burra, Lamington National Park (AM); Cunningham’s Gap, near Maryvale (ANIC).

Description (male, female). General characters as for genus. Coloration of head, body, and wings, as for genus. Antenna predominantly tawny-yellow, with segment 3 slightly suffused with light brown; palpus tawny-yellow with brown apex. Sternopleuron tawny-yellow; with upper margin suffused with brown. Fore femur entirely brown; mid and hind femora tawny-yellow, with brown apices, tibiae tawny-yellow, hind tibia with brownish base and apex; fore and hind tarsi brown; mid tarsus tawny-yellow, becoming brownish apically.

Thorax. Hind tibia thickened in male only, other tibiae slender, normal.

Abdomen (male). Epandrium with two pairs of large dorsal bristles and numerous setulae, produced into a marginal tubercle anteriorly to base of surstylus; surstylus (Fig. 34) elongate, almost parallel-sided in part, rounded apically, slightly broadened at extreme base, densely microtrichose on most of outer surface, with several large setulae, some nearly half as long as surstylus, and minute apical setulae, without inner basal prominence; subepandrial process large and prominent with few small setulae and minute tubercles distally, dorsobasally with two or three larger setulae; gonostylus compact, simple, with two to four large setulae; distiphallus long, tapered, channelled, with membranous
oblong ventral lobe; bulb of aedeagus of unusual shape with pair of apertures on funnel-like anterior processes; cercus (Fig. 35) moderately elongate, extensively microtrichose on both inner and outer surfaces, with relatively few large posteriorly directed setulae, and rather short subcylindrical, blunt, non-microtrichose anterior process, usually somewhat gibbous ventrally at base of process.

**Dimensions.** Total length, ♂ 2.0–2.4 mm, ♀ 2.4–2.8 mm; length of thorax, ♂ 1.1–1.3 mm, ♀ 1.3–1.4 mm; length of wing, ♂ 2.8–3.1 mm, ♀ 3.2–3.7 mm.

**Distribution.** Mainly coastal and subcoastal districts of southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, from Kenilworth district in north to Taree district in south. Map references 8G, 8H, 8I (Fig. 4).

**Notes**

*Pentachaeta impar* is distinct from all other species of the genus in that the male has only the hind tibia markedly thickened, the other tibiae being slender as in the female. The aedeagus is peculiar in the structure of the distiphallus and the presence of a pair of funnel-like openings on the bulb. Both sexes can generally be distinguished from other *Pentachaeta* species by presence of a brown suffusion on the upper margin of the sternopleuron (katepisternum).

The specific epithet is a Latin adjective, *impar*, unequal, in reference to the difference in thickness between the hind tibia and the other tibiae in the male.

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**Pentachaeta kirkspriggsi** n. sp.

**Figs 37–39**

Description (male, female)

Coloration of head, body, and wings, as for genus. Antenna and palpus tawny-yellow, latter without trace of darkened apex. Fore femur almost entirely dark brown; mid and hind femora yellow, latter sometimes slightly darkened apically; fore tibia brown in male, yellow in female, brown at most only on extreme base; mid tibia yellow; hind tibia brown in male, yellow with brown apex in female; tarsi yellowish, becoming darker distally.

Thorax. All tibiae strongly swollen in male, slender in female.

Abdomen (male). Epandrium with two pairs of large dorsal bristles and numerous setulae; surstylus (Fig. 37) slightly curved, almost parallel-sided, but often slightly narrowed towards base, broadly rounded at apex, with numerous microtrichia on somewhat less than basal half of outer surface but none on inner surface, and with scattered setulae, some of which are moderately large; inner basal prominence of surstylus broadly transverse, with very few setulae; subependrial process (Fig. 39) prominent, usually not much narrowed distally, with usual large distal setulae; gonostylus with few long setulae and posterodistal tuberculose zone; cercus (Fig. 38) rather stout, with large setulae and numerous microtrichia on entire length, with anterior lobe moderately produced and apically dilated and bilaterally compressed to slightly variable degree.

Dimensions. Total length, ♂ 2.4–2.9 mm, ♀ 2.6–2.9 mm; length of thorax, ♂ 1.2–1.4 mm, ♀ 1.3–1.4 mm; length of wing, ♂ 3.0–3.4 mm, ♀ 3.1–3.4 mm.

Distribution. Eastern New South Wales—mainly sub coastal areas and nearby ranges from Kyogle district to near Robertson, also Blue Mountains. Map references 7J, 7K, 8H, 8I (Fig. 4).

Notes

Pentachaeta kirkspriggsi belongs among those species with all tibiae much thickened in the male, and the fore tibia yellowish without apical brown mark in the females. Among these species, distinctive features include the entirely yellow palpus and the absence of a broad brownish zone on the upper part of the sternopleuron. In the male, the shape of the anterior lobe of the cercus is distinctive (Fig. 38), and the shape of the surstylus (Fig. 37) distinguishes it from some species.

The specific epithet refers to Ashley H. Kirk-Spriggs, who has generously provided study material of African Diptera.

Pentachaeta pinguis n. sp.

Figs 1, 40–42

Figures 37–39. Pentachaeta kirkspriggsi, Wentworth Falls (37) left surstylus, outer surface view; scale 0.1 mm; (38) pair of cerci, left lateroventral view; scale = 0.1 mm. Pentachaeta kirkspriggsi, Mooney Mooney Creek (39) left gonostylus, subependrial process, and associated parts; scale = 0.05 mm. as, articulating sclerite; g, gonostylus; pl, posterolateral extension of basiphallus; sp, subependrial process.


Other material examined. Queensland: Eungella National Park (near Broken River) (AM); Olmara Hills, near Dalrymple Heights (or Eungella), c. 1000 m (AM, QM); Crediton, near Eungella (AM); Finch Hatton, 180 m (AM); Finch Hatton Gorge (AM); 13 km and 17 km S of Ravenshoe (AM); Edge Hill, near Cairns (AM); Kuranda (AM); Paluma (AM); Austral Forest, near Bulburin, Monto district (AM).

**Description (male, female)**

Resembling *P. kirkspriggsi* in most characters; agreeing with description of that species, except as indicated below.

**Coloration.** Antenna tawny-yellow as in *P. kirkspriggsi* (type colour form), or with segments 2 and 3 quite black (dark tropical colour form); palpus tawny yellow with c. distal quarter grey brown (darker in fresh specimens), black in dark tropical form. Fore tibia entirely tawny-yellow (type colour form) or with brownish apical zone (dark tropical form).

**Thorax.** Tibiae as in *P. kirkspriggsi*.

**Abdomen** (male) resembling that of *P. kirkspriggsi* except as indicated. Surstylus often slightly more slender than in *P. kirkspriggsi* with smaller setulae; subependrial process slightly narrower distally than in *P. kirkspriggsi*, but somewhat variable (Fig. 42); gonostylus with posterodistal group of prominent tubercles and one to three large setulae; cercus slightly variable in shape but differing from that of *P. kirkspriggsi* in having anterior lobe tapered, not markedly produced and compressed, but slightly variable in shape.

**Dimensions.** Total length, ♂ 2.3–3.2 mm, ♀ 2.2–3.1 mm; length of thorax, ♂ 1.3–1.5 mm, ♀ 1.3–1.6 mm; length of wing, ♂ 3.0–3.3 mm, ♀ 3.0–3.6 mm.

**Distribution.** Eastern New South Wales: coastal districts and Blue Mountains; Queensland: Monto district in south of state (type colour form), sub-coastal ranges in tropics, from Kuranda to Clarke (Eungella) Range (mainly dark colour form). Map reference 7F, 7I, 7K, 8H (Fig. 4).

**Notes**

*Pentachaeta pinguis* differs from other species of the genus except *P. impar* in having the palpus conspicuously darkened apically, but differs from that species in lacking
the brown zone on the upper margin of the sternopleuron. Males resemble those of *P. kirkspriggsi* and *P. physopus* in having all tibiae conspicuously thickened but differ in the shape of the cercus (compare Figs 41, 44), whereas the male of *P. impar* has only the hind tibia thickened and, again, a differently shaped cercus (compare Figs 40, 35).

Tropical populations of *P. pinguis* differ from all other *Pentachaeta* forms in having antennal segments 2 and 3 black. This is such a striking feature that I initially assumed these populations to represent a distinct species, but comparison of numerous specimens from both tropical and southern populations reveals no identifiable differences except in coloration. There is slight variation in the shape of the surstylus and cercus in both these populations, but the male cercus is consistently distinct from that of *P. kirkspriggsi*, and both surstylus and cercus are sharply different from those of *P. physopus*.

One male specimen of *P. pinguis* from within its tropical habitat (Eungella National Park) shows tawny-yellow antennae, but was preserved in alcohol before drying and mounting. It shows some bleaching of pigmented cuticle, and it is uncertain if this treatment fully explains the antennal coloration.

The specific epithet is a Latin adjective, obese or fat, in reference to the thickened male tibiae.

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**Pentachaeta physopus** McAlpine

Figs 43, 44


**Description**

See McAlpine (1985).

**Distribution.** New South Wales: coastal and subcoastal districts from Allyn River to Nelligen district; also Blue Mountains.

**Notes**

Among the species with all tibiae much thickened in that sex, males can be distinguished by having the palpus entirely pale yellow and fore tarsus entirely dark brown to black. The form of the surstylus and cercus (Figs 43, 44) is very different from that of related species. Females differ from those of all other species of the genus in their entirely dark fore tibia and tarsus, and from those of some related species in the entirely pale palpus (clean, non-greasy specimens).
Figures 43, 44. *Pentachaeta physopus*, Mooney Mooney Creek (43) left surstylus, outer surface view; (44) pair of cerci, left lateroventral view. Scale for both figs = 0.1 mm.

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**References**


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