



# THE TASMANIAN NATURALIST

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## BITING MIDGES, *CULICOIDES* SPP (DIPTERA: CERATOPOGONIDAE) OF TASMANIA

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### Introduction

Collections of *Culicoides* spp were made in Tasmania in the summers of 1964, 1971 and 1972 to determine which of the species known to bite livestock were present. The standard techniques of light traps, vehicle-mounted traps, and searching for breeding places were used. In 1972 light traps were sited close to livestock. All collections were stored in 70% alcohol and selected specimens were mounted in Canada Balsam on glass slides for identification. Full details of the findings will be reported elsewhere.

### Results

A preliminary listing of the species found and the localities where they were found is given below.

- |    |                          |   |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 1  | <i>C. angularis</i>      | Falmouth  |
| 2  | <i>C. bundyensis</i>     | Falmouth, Sheffield, Scamander  |
| 3  | <i>C. dycei</i>          | Falmouth  |
| 4  | <i>C. fulbrighti</i>     | Falmouth  |
| 5  | <i>C. marmoratus</i>     | Montagu   |
| 6  | <i>C. multimaculatus</i> | Falmouth, Scamander, Tomahawk River near to entrance, "Emita" on Flinders Island  |
| 7  | <i>C. sigmoides</i>      | Falmouth  |
| 8. | <i>C. victoriae</i>      | Port Davey, Strahan, 6km west of Maydena, Bridgewater, Duck River 36km south of Smithton, Montagu River 1km from sea, Alberton, Bridport, Falmouth, Green's Beach, Preolenna, Railton, Scamander, Tomahawk River, Flinders Island — 11km south of Whitemark, "Emita". |
| 9  | <i>C. waringi</i>        | Tomahawk River near to entrance, Flinders Island — 22km east and 11km south of Whitemark and "Emita".   |

## Discussion

The species found were typical of a southern fauna. *C. victoriae* which feeds on mammals, including man, was widespread. *C. bundyensis* which feeds on cattle, horses and marsupials (Muller and Murray 1977) was common in the north-east. *C. angularis*, *C. fulbrighti* and *C. sigmoides* were captured in the forested slopes near Falmouth, and *C. marmoratus*, *C. multimaculatus* and *C. waringi* near to the coast. The fauna of north-east Tasmania was similar to that of south-eastern Victoria. *C. dycei*, a mammal feeder with a wide distribution on the mainland of Australia, was found once but *C. austropalpalis*, a wide spread bird-feeding species, was noticeably absent.

Species of importance in the transmission of arboviruses that cause diseases of livestock were absent, as would be expected as they are all more "tropical" insects. *C. brevitarsis*, which is distributed the most extensively, has a classical megathermic distribution and extends farthest south along the eastern coastal plains but only as far as the south coast of New South Wales (Murray and Nix 1988).

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## SWAMP ANTECHINUS — EXTENSION TO RECORDED DISTRIBUTION, HABITAT PREFERENCE AND BODY SIZE

*T.J. Scarborough and R.H. Green*  
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Green (1972, 1973) gave the Tasmanian distribution of the Swamp Antechinus *Antechinus minimus* as being confined to the western half of the state and also on Maatsuyker Island, Flinders Island and King Island. He gave its preferred habitat as wet sedgeland and swampy drainage areas, ranging from sub-alpine