

## An Appraisal of the Cicadas of the Genus *Abricta* Stål and Allied Genera (Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha: Cicadidae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The cicada genus *Abricta* Stål currently contains a heterogeneous group of species which is considered best divided into four genera. *Abricta* sensu str. includes only *A. brunnea* (Fabricius) and *A. ferruginosa* (Stål) which are confined to Mauritius and neighbouring islands. The monotypic genus *Chrysolasia* n.gen., is proposed for a single Guatemalan species, *A. guatemalena* (Distant). Another monotypic genus, *Aleeta* n.gen., is proposed for the species *A. curvicosta* (Germar) from eastern Australia. Fourteen Australian species are placed in *Tryella* n.gen.: *castanea* Distant, *noctua* Distant, *rubra* Goding & Froggatt, *stalkerii* Distant, *willsi* Distant, *adela* n.sp., *burnsi* n.sp., *crassa* n.sp., *graminea* n.sp., *infuscata* n.sp., *kauma* n.sp., *lachlani* n.sp., *occidens* n.sp. and *ochra* n.sp.

The five remaining species currently placed in *Abricta* (*borealis* Goding & Froggatt, *burgessi* Distant, *cincta* Fabricius and *occidentalis* Goding & Froggatt from Australia plus *pusilla* Fabricius of unknown locality) do not belong to *Abricta* or closely allied genera.

Cladistic analyses place *C. guatemalena* basally on all trees. The Mauritian genus *Abricta* sensu str., and the genera, *Abroma* Stål and *Monomatapa* Distant, form a sister group to all Australian species. There is strong evidence suggesting that *Abricta* and *Abroma* are synonymous.

Keys to genera and species and maps of distribution are provided.

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The genus *Abricta* belongs to the tribe Taphurini and previously included 14 described species distributed through Australia, Mauritius, and Guatemala. The largest of these, *A. ferruginosa* (Stål) from Mauritius, attains a wingspan of over 100 mm while the smallest, now *Tryella castanea* (Distant) from Australia, has a wingspan of around 45 mm.

The historical review below shows that species of *Abricta* have been described on an ad hoc basis with no real assessment of generic limits. Many of the species descriptions lack detail and some important morphological characters have never been examined. Perusal of museum

specimens suggested that *Abricta* was not be a coherent generic group and highlighted many difficulties in identifying Australian specimens.

*Abricta* Stål is here redefined to include just two species that are found only in Mauritius. The genus *Chrysolasia* n.gen. is established to accommodate the single Guatemalan species. Two genera are erected for the Australian species: *Aleeta* n.gen. which includes *curvicosta* Germar only, while the remainder are placed in *Tryella* n.gen. Nine new species of *Tryella* are described from Australia, making a total of 14. It has been necessary to place considerable emphasis