

## A New Species of the Genus *Mecyclothorax* Sharp from New South Wales (Insecta: Coleoptera, Carabidae: Psydrinae)

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**ABSTRACT.** *Mecyclothorax moorei* n.sp. (Insecta: Coleoptera: Carabidae: Psydrinae) is described from northeastern New South Wales, Australia. The species is closely related to *Mecyclothorax punctatus* (Sloane) which is distributed from inland southern New South Wales through Victoria into southwestern Western Australia. The new species and *M. punctatus* are distinguished from all other Australian species of *Mecyclothorax* by small size, compact body shape, and remarkably coarse punctation of the pronotum and elytra.

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Psydrinae (or Psydrini) is a diverse subfamily (or tribe) of carabid beetles, in terms of general morphology and habits. These beetles live in leaf litter on the ground in closed forests, and on or under bark of a variety of trees in forest, woodland, and even fairly dry areas (Baehr, 2003, 2005, 2007). With respect to lineages and to morphology worldwide, the group is most diverse in Australia (Moore, 1963; Moore *et al.*, 1987; Baehr, 1999) and many subgroups have representatives in cool or even cold temperate habitats, not only in Australia, but also in New Zealand, southern South America and on a number of subantarctic islands. Some groups, however, transgressed the southern cool temperate region and moved in to tropical (mostly montane) regions, for example, in northern Queensland and New Guinea, as well as certain Pacific island groups, where they have undergone remarkable radiation (Baehr, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007; Laroche & Larivière, 2007; Liebherr, 2006, 2008; Moore, 1984; Moore *et al.*, 1987; Perrault, 1978, 1992). A few species even occur in Africa and the Holarctic region.

One of the most prolific genera of Psydrinae, in terms of numbers of existing species, is the genus *Mecyclothorax*

Sharp, 1903 which is widely distributed in the Australian-Pacific area including New Guinea, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii, with one species even occurring on Mt. Kinabalu in northern Borneo (Baehr & Lorenz, 1999). In Australia, (including Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands and Tasmania) 23 taxa of *Mecyclothorax* have so far been recorded; they range from Atherton and Windsor Tablelands along the east coast through Queensland and New South Wales, through Victoria, Tasmania, and southern South Australia to southern Western Australia. Moore (1984) and Baehr (2003) published partial taxonomic treatments, but a number of very similar species are still in need of revision.

During a recent visit to the Australian Museum, Sydney, and while checking the collection for additional material for forthcoming revisions of Australian carabid beetles, I found three specimens of an unusual, small, *Mecyclothorax* beetle. A decade ago the specimens had already been denoted as a new species by Barry Moore. Comparison with the only other similar Australian species, *Mecyclothorax punctatus* (Sloane, 1895), confirmed that the specimens indeed belong to a separate and closely related species which is described below.