

## Redescription of *Myopsalta atrata* (Goding and Froggatt) and Description of Two New Species of *Myopsalta* Moulds (Hemiptera: Cicadidae) from Central Western New South Wales

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**ABSTRACT.** *Myopsalta atrata* (Goding & Froggatt) is redescribed in light of recently collected specimens that match the original type material. New evidence shows that *M. atrata* is restricted to the Hawkesbury Sandstone region, specifically in the vicinity of Greater Sydney in New South Wales, Australia. Two new species of *Myopsalta* are described from central western New South Wales: *Myopsalta libritor* sp.nov. and *M. coolahensis* sp.nov. Both occur in grassland, typically in association with alluvial terraces. In addition to morphological redescription, the species-specific calling song for each taxon is documented here for the first time.

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Australia has a diverse cicada fauna, particularly in the tribe Cicadettini (Moulds, 2012). A large portion of this tribe is made up of small species (body length less than 20 mm). Many of these species occur in grass or small shrubs and are characterized by erratic seasonal emergences (Emery *et al.*, 2005). Since the adults are often highly mobile, inconspicuous and only persist for a few weeks at most, their capture is often serendipitous.

The genus *Myopsalta* Moulds was recently erected to accommodate eight Australian species (Moulds, 2012), with type species *Myopsalta crucifera* (Ashton, 1912). The name *Myopsalta atrata* (Goding and Froggatt, 1904) has

been associated with a species that is widespread in central eastern Australia (Emery *et al.*, 2005; Ewart, 1988, 1998; Moulds, 1990; Popple & Strange, 2002). New material has recently become available that corresponds more closely to the syntypes of *Myopsalta atrata* and places all other material previously treated as *M. atrata*, into uncertainty. Here we redescribe *M. atrata* based upon this new material and provide the first documentation of the calling song. The species previously referred to as *M. atrata* is now recognized as forming part of the *M. crucifera* species complex, a complex that requires substantial revision beyond the scope of the present study.

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