

Two New Species of Fairy Shrimp (Crustacea: Anostraca: Thamnocephalidae: *Branchinella*) from the Paroo, Inland Australia

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ABSTRACT. Two new species of fairy shrimp, *Branchinella budjiti* and *B. campbelli*, are described from intermittent wetlands in northwestern NSW. Both have very distinctive frontal appendages, second antennae and other features that defy classification into established groups within the genus.

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The genus *Branchinella* Sayce, 1903, is one of the most speciose genera of fairy shrimps in the world with 33 species so far described (Belk & Brtek, 1995). Geddes' (1981) review of Australian *Branchinella* recognized 18 species, but Belk & Brtek (1995) elevated three of his subspecies to specific rank, enlarging the Australian fauna to 20 species, all endemic. Forty percent of these are known from a very limited area or just the type locality in the arid zone. It is not surprising then that intensive collecting in one such area, the middle Paroo catchment of northwestern NSW and southwestern Qld, has yielded many new distribution records and two new species (Hancock & Timms, in review; Sanders, 1999; Timms, 1993, 1997). In addition, a new genus in the family Branchipodidae and a new species of *Parastreptocephalus* (Streptocephalidae) have been found (Timms, unpublished data). It is the purpose of this paper to describe the new species of *Branchinella* and to attempt to place them into the groupings of *Branchinella* proposed by Geddes (1981).

Taxonomy

Thamnocephalidae

Branchinella Sayce, 1903

***Branchinella budjiti* n.sp.**

Fig. 1

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂, Australian Museum (AM hereafter), AM P58543, length 16.1 mm; ALLOTYPE: 1 ♀, AM P58544, length 13.9 mm; PARATYPES 4 ♂♂ (length 15.9±0.6 mm) and 3 ♀♀ (length 13.3±0.6 mm) AM P58545.

Type locality. An unnamed claypan c. 500 m NW of Muella Station homestead, 130 km NW of Bourke, NSW, 29°31'S 144°56'E, altitude 120 m a.s.l., collected by the author, 6 December 1999.