

**Systematics, biogeography and host associations  
of the lace bug genus *Inoma*  
(Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae)**

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**Abstract.** The lace bug genus *Inoma* Hacker, 1927 is revised, including a redescription of the genus and the type species, *I. multispinosa* Hacker, 1927. Eight species are described as new to science, as follows: *I. arrenrnte* sp. nov., *I. breviseta* sp. nov., *I. fuscata* sp. nov., *I. innamincka* sp. nov., *I. kalbarri* sp. nov., *I. silveirae* sp. nov., *I. solusa* sp. nov. and *I. stysi* sp. nov. A key to species is provided, and diagnostic characters are illustrated. *Inoma angusta* Drake, 1942 is not congeneric with the above species, based on the given redescription, and is posited as *incertae sedis*. *Inoma* is endemic to Australia, with a mostly arid distribution, with up to three species recorded from a single locality. Host plants of *Inoma* are recorded for the first time, predominantly from the angiosperm plant families, Lamiaceae and Myoporaceae, and most commonly from species of the ubiquitous genera *Eremophila* and *Dicrastylis*.

**Keywords.** Heteroptera, Tingidae, *Inoma*, systematics, biogeography, host plants, new species, Australia

### Introduction

The Australian Heteroptera are diverse, highly endemic, and remain poorly documented (CASSIS & GROSS 1995, 2002; CASSIS et al. 2007). Arguably the two families with the greatest taxonomic impediment are the plant bugs (Miridae) and lace bugs (Tingidae). Over the past 12 years, one of us [GC], in collaboration with Randall T. Schuh of the American Museum of Natural History, has lead an intensive and systematic survey of Australia, particularly of the temperate and arid regions, with emphasis on documenting host plant associations. Outcomes of this field work identified the taxonomic impediment, and the collections serve as a baseline for documenting Australia's true bugs.