

A MONOGRAPH OF THE AUSTRALOPACIFIC SAPRININAE (COLEOPTERA, HISTERIDAE)

BY

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*Saprinus (Saprinus) rarus* Lackner & Leschen, sp. n.

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This monograph treats the poorly known Australopacific fauna of the saprinine Histeridae beetles (Coleoptera) describing two new genera and four new species from the region. All species can be identified using a key and each is fully illustrated with habitus and SEM illustrations.

Most saprinine species are free-living predators of mainly insect larvae in carrion and dung in forest and open habitats; this monograph reports on the little known or new species that are more specialised, living in caves and bird nests. Myrmecophily and termitophily, living with ants and termites, respectively, is reported for the first time in Australopacific Saprininae.

The faunal composition is a mixture of northern invaders that may have arrived to the region in early Cenozoic by 'island hopping' from the north, taxa with uncertain phylogenetic affinities that may be basal saprinines, or relicts. Several species are introduced.

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