

Taxonomy of the South American genus *Phyllopetalia* (Odonata: Austropetaliidae)

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ABSTRACT

This synopsis of adult *Phyllopetalia* includes the synonymy of four genera (*Phyllopetalia* senior subjective synonym of *Rheopetalia*, *Odontopetalia*, *Eurypetalia* and *Ophiopetalia*), four species and one subspecies (*P. apicalis* senior subjective synonym of *Rheopetalia rex* and *R. apicalis decorata*, and *P. pudu* senior subjective synonym of *Ophiopetalia araucana*, *O. auregaster* and *O. diana*). *P. excrescens* and *P. alta-rensensis* are redescribed, and a neotype is designated for the latter. Keys to adults, illustrations of all diagnostic characters, and distribution maps of all species are provided.

INTRODUCTION

The family Austropetaliidae is distributed in the Austral or Notogeic biogeographic region, with representatives in Tasmania: *Archipetalia auriculata* Tillyard, 1917, Australia: *Austropetalia patricia* Tillyard, 1916 and *Austropetalia tonyana* Theischinger, 1995, and southern Chile and southwestern Argentina in South America. The number of described species and genera from southwestern South America was recently increased from five species and two genera to 11 and six, respectively (Carle 1996).

As Carle & Louton (1994) and Carle (1996) clearly pointed out, the taxonomic history of the family Austropetaliidae has been complex; the scattered literature on the group is plagued with misidentifications and errors that misled latter researchers (Selys 1858, 1859, 1878; Tillyard 1910; Fraser 1933, 1957; Schmidt 1941; Dunkle 1985). Austropetaliids were linked for many years to the libelluloid *Neopetalia punctata* (Hagen in Selys, 1854) within the family Neopetaliidae, which they resemble superficially in wing color pattern, until Carle & Louton (1994) made the aeshnoid lineage of Austropetaliidae evident and placed them in their own family.

Carle's revision (1996) was the first synoptic work since Fraser's (1933) to include all species of the family; in it he described four new subfamilies, two new tribes, four new genera, two new subgenera, seven new species, and revived two subspecies. Unfortunately, the diagnoses for his new genera and species were provided only in the keys, and his new names were not accompanied by any further descriptions or illustrations (in contravention to recommendation 16.F and general