

# Cytaea Keyserling, 1882

## Taxonomy

*Cytaea*, found in Australian, Pacific and Oriental Regions, has eleven Australian species: *Cytaea alburna*, *C. barbatissima*, *C. clarovittata*, *C. frontalis*, *C. mitellata*, *C. morrisoni*, *C. nigriventris*, *C. piscula*, *C. plumbeiventris*, *C. severa* and *C. sinuata*. Some of these are shared with Papua New Guinea, various Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. There are many undescribed species in Australia. Past synonymisations of *Cytaea expectans* and *Cytaea xanthopus* with *Cytaea plumbeiventris* present some difficulties and may be subject to revision. *Cytaea nimbata* is known from Australia with many specimens recorded, Whyte and Anderson (2017). Further information on the genus and described species can be found in Richardson and Žabka (2017) and Whyte and Anderson (2017).

## Description

*Cytaea* spp. are small to medium-sized spiders, ranging in body length from 3 to 9 mm. The cephalothorax is rounded, widest behind the posterior median lateral eyes. Some species are brightly coloured with colours changing between localities to match the substrate. The chelicerae have a bicuspid retromarginal tooth (fissident) and three or more teeth on the promargin. The abdomen is ovate to elongate-ovate. The legs are slender and do not differ greatly in length.

The male palp varies in structure. The embolus can be long and slender arising from the lateral or distal edge of a bulb making a half to several anticlockwise circles around the bulb, ending distally. Some species have more basic arrangements of the embolus. The tegulum is short and also varies in shape between species. The retro-lateral tibial apophysis is short and sharp with a slightly-hooked end.

The female has two epigynal atria with well sclerotised guides. The copulatory openings open on the posterior edges of the atria. The highly-coiled insemination ducts and spermathecae are located between and overlapping the margins of the atria, adjacent to the epigastric fold.

## Biology

*Cytaea* is usually found on foliage but also occasionally under bark or rocks in habitats ranging from grasslands to rainforest.

## Distribution

*Cytaea* is found across most of mainland Australia from semi-desert to the coast, north of Perth and Sydney. It is also found in southeast Asia and the south west Pacific.

## References

Davies, V.T. & Žabka, M. 1989 Illustrated keys to the genera of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae) in Australia. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 27, 189-266.

Richardson, B.J. & Žabka, M. 2017. Salticidae. Arachnida: Araneomorphae. Canberra, Australian Faunal Directory. Australian Biological Resources Study, at <https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/SALTICIDAE>.

Whyte, R. & Anderson, G. 2017. *A Field Guide to Spiders of Australia*. CSIRO Publishing: Clayton.

\* The information sheet should be interpreted in the context of the associated diagrams and photographs. Diagrams explaining anatomical terms can be found in the 'Salticidae' pictures at the beginning of the list of genera.



Examples of live *Cytaea*

Illustrator (and ©) I.R. Macaulay, R. Whyte (BR)



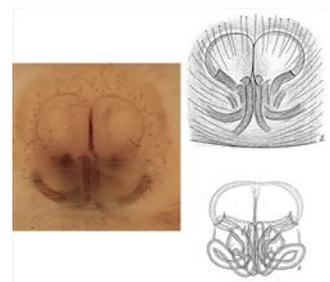
Aspects of the general morphology of *Cytaea*

Illustrators (and ©) B.J. Richardson (CSIRO), M. Zabka (diag.) (QMB)



Palp morphology of *Cytaea*

Illustrators (and ©) B.J. Richardson (L) (CSIRO), R. Whyte (M), M. Zabka (diag.) (QMB)



Epigyne morphology of *Cytaea*

Illustrators (and ©) B.J. Richardson (CSIRO), M. Zabka (diag.) (QMB)