

What genera and species of firefly are there in Australia?

### **How the names are written.**

The names in italics are the scientific name of the firefly. The first name with the uppercase first letter is the genus or generic name; the second name is the species, or specific name. Scientific names are always written in some way to distinguish them from ordinary type, and usually in italics.

The name may be followed by the name of a person and even a date like this:

*Atyphella scintillans* Olliff 1890

which tells us that the species *scintillans* was first described by Olliff, who was an Australian entomologist, in the year 1890, and that he placed the species *scintillans* in the genus *Atyphella*.

This name conveys a different set of information:

*Atyphella inconspicua* (Lea 1921)

Arthur M Lea was another famous Australian entomologist. But when he described the species *inconspicua* he placed it in another genus. The first name this species ever had was *Luciola inconspicua* Lea 1921.

The brackets around his name tell us that while he described the species *inconspicua*, he did not place it in the genus *Atyphella*. Of course unless we search through the literature nothing about the name would tell us what was the name of the original genus, just that it wasn't *Atyphella*. Someone else transferred the species to another genus.

And all that from a name!

### **List of genera and species in Australia**

*Aquilonia costata* (Lea 1921)

*Atyphella atra* Lea 1921 flightless female

*Atyphella brevis* Lea 1909

*Atyphella conspicua* Ballantyne 2000 flightless female

*Atyphella ellioti* Ballantyne 2000 possible flightless female

*Atyphella flammans* Olliff 1890 flightless female

*Atyphella flammulans* Ballantyne 2000

*Atyphella immaculata* Ballantyne 2000

*Atyphella inconspicua* (Lea 1921) flightless female

*Atyphella lewisi* Ballantyne 2000 flightless female

*Atyphella lychnus* Olliff 1890 female may flit short distances

*Atyphella monteithi* Ballantyne 2000

*Atyphella olivieri* Lea 1915  
*Atyphella scintillans* Olliff 1890 flightless female  
*Atyphella similis* Ballantyne 2000 flightless female  
*Australoluciola australis* (Fabricius 1775)  
*Australoluciola flavicollis* (MacLeay 1872)  
*Australoluciola nigra* (Olivier 1896)  
*Australoluciola orapallida* (Ballantyne 2000)  
*Lloydiella majuscula* (Lea 1915)  
*Medeopteryx cribellata* (Olivier 1892)  
*Medeopteryx platygaster* (Lea 1909)  
*Pygoluciola cowleyi* (Blackburn 1897)  
*Pyrophanes beccarii* Olivier 1885