

Plecoptera (Stoneflies)

Family and Species Listings

The Plecoptera, or stoneflies, are a primitive order of insects that date from the Permian to the middle Tertiary, with an upper Permian fossil belonging to the Eustheniidae, an extant Australian Family. Adult stoneflies look very similar to the aquatic nymphs but possess two pairs of wings. The adults are terrestrial living for 3-4 weeks while the aquatic nymphs usually live in cool, clear flowing streams for 3-4 months to two years. Very few species live in stationary waters or in warm streams that exceed 25°C (Williams and Feltmate 1992).



Of the 15 families recorded worldwide there are only 4 families in Australia; the Eustheniidae, Austroperlidae, Gripopterygidae and the Notonemouridae. Due to the taxonomical complexity of the stoneflies only 15 species are included in these profiles representing all families except the Notonemouridae.

Family Austroperlidae

- ▶ *Acruroperla atra*
- ▶ *Austroheptura neboissi*
- ▶ *Austroheptura sp 2*
- ▶ *Tasmanoperla larvalis*
- ▶ *Tasmanoperla thalia*

Family Eustheniidae

- ▶ *Cosmioperla kuna*
- ▶ *Eusthenia costalis*
- ▶ *Eusthenia spectabilis*

Family Gripopterygidae

- ▶ *Dinotoperla evansi*
- ▶ *Eunotoperla kershawi*
- ▶ *Leptoperla australica*
- ▶ *Newmanoperla exigua*
- ▶ *Riekoperla naso*
- ▶ *Riekoperla occidentalis*
- ▶ *Trinotoperla irrorata*