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Invertebrate of the Month

November 2007



Flower feeding flies

This mean looking fly is not mean at all and belongs to the family Apioceridae which consists of medium to large flies. The specimen pictured above is 22 mm long. Apioceridae is a subfamily of Asiloidea, but unlike some of its relatives such as robber flies, adults of this family are slow noisy flyers and feed on pollen and nectar. Larvae are thought to be carnivorous but very little is known of their biology. There are two Australian genera, 75 described and many undescribed species. Australia has 2/3 of the known world species.