

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

A NEW LARVAL HOST PLANT OF *NASCIOIDES PULCHER* (VAN DE POLL) (COLEOPTERA: BUPRESTIDAE).

Garry A. Webb

Technomyrmex Pty Ltd, PO Box 2076, Taren Point, NSW, 2229

Summary

Nascioides pulcher (van der Poll) is a small brightly coloured buprestid known to infest a range of riparian and rainforest tree species (all Myrtaceae). To this list can be added *Tristania neriifolia* (Sieber ex Sims) R.Br. (Myrtaceae) from material collected at several locations in southern Sydney (NSW).

INTRODUCTION

Nascioides pulcher (van der Poll) is known from eastern Australian rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest where it utilises a range of species as larval hosts including *Waterhousea floribunda* (F. Muell.) B. Hyland, *Backhousia sciadophora* F. Muell., *Backhousia myrtifolia* Hook. and *Syzygium smithii* (Poir.) Nied, all of which are from the plant family Myrtaceae (Bellamy *et al.* 2013; Williams *et al.* 2024).

Collections of infested material of *Tristania neriifolia* from riparian locations in Royal National Park and Heathcote National Park, south of Sydney, were maintained in plastic tubs under semi-controlled conditions. Progressively over time, adult specimens of *N. pulcher* emerged.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

New *N. pulcher* records

T. neriifolia

1. NSW, Royal National Park, Engadine Falls, collected on 6 January 2021, emerged on 19, 26, 28 September, 22 October, 4 November 2021 (15 specimen).
2. NSW, Royal National Park, Engadine Falls, collected on 15 December 2021, emerged on 19 October, 1 November 2022 (27 specimen).
3. NSW, Royal National Park, Engadine Falls, collected on 16 December 2021, emerged on 1 June, 1 August, 5, 19 October, 1, 12 November, 8 December 2022 (61 specimen).
4. NSW, Heathcote National Park, Elbow Pool, collected on 15 February 2021, emerged on 13 April 2022 (3 specimens).
5. NSW, Heathcote National Park, Elbow Pool, collected on 14 December 2021, emerged on 5 October, 1, 12 November 2022 (10 specimens).

6. NSW, Heathcote National Park, Elbow Pool, collected on 15 December 2021, emerged on 20 September, 5 October, 12 November, 8 December 2022 (13 specimens).
7. NSW, Royal National Park, Kangaroo Creek, collected on 16 December 2021, emerged on 1 November, 8 December 2022 (4 specimens).
8. NSW, Royal National Park, Engadine Falls, collected on 29 August 2025, emerged on 25 September, 2 October 2025 (5 specimen).

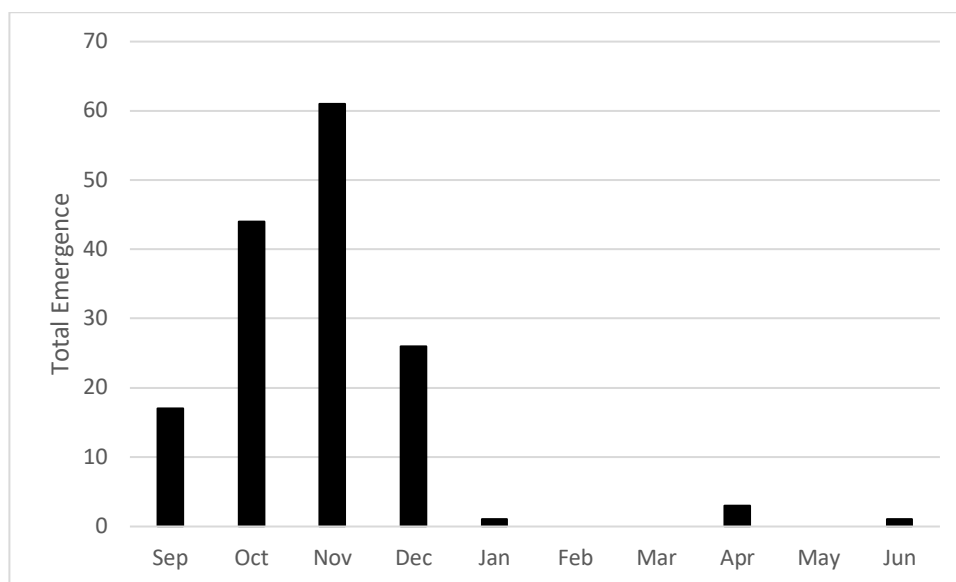
N. pulcher (Figure 1) larval hosts appears to be limited to species of Myrtaceae. A further species of Myrtaceae, *Tristania neriifolia* (Sieber ex Sims) R.Br. is now known to be a larval host plant of *N. pulcher* based on material collected at locations in southern Sydney. To date no other host plants have been recorded for this species in the area. Specimens emerged from infested material from August through to June but primarily September to December (Figure 2) across several years.

Interestingly, no other species of *Nascioides* has been recorded breeding in species of Myrtaceae except *Nascioides parryi* (Hope) in *Eucalyptus globulus* Labill. (Bellamy *et al.* 2013). All other species have been recorded infesting plant species typical of eastern Australian and Tasmanian rainforest (Families Atherospermataceae, Cunoniaceae, Eleaocarpaceae, Fagaceae, Rutaceae and Sterculiaceae). Adults have also been recorded on leaves of “lilly pilly” (probably a *Syzygium* sp). (Myrtaceae) (Bellamy *et al.* 2013, Hawkeswood 2007).

Figure 1. Adult *N. pulcher* (ca. 5-7mm length) emerged from *T. neriifolia*



Figure 2. Emergence times for *N. pulcher* over 5 years (2021-25).



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was conducted under NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment license number SL102455. Dr Geoff Williams (Lorien Wildlife Refuge) kindly identified specimens of *N. pulcher*. One journal reviewer provided useful comments on the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- Bellamy, C. L., Williams, G. A., Hasenpusch, J. and A. Sundholm (2013). A summary of the published data on host plants and morphology of immature stages of Australian jewel beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), with additional new records. *Insecta Mundi* **0293**: 1-172
- Hawkeswood T.J. (2007). Review of the biology of the Australian species of the genus *Nascioides* Kerremans, 1903 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae). *Calodema* Supplementary Paper No. **22** p. 1-7.
- Williams, G., and C. L. Bellamy. 2002. New species and new records for the genus *Nascioides* Kerremans, 1903 (Insecta: Coleoptera: Buprestidae). *Zootaxa* **58**: 1-9.
- Williams G., Mitchell K. and Sundholm A.M. (2024). Australian jewel beetles: An introduction to the Buprestidae. CSIRO Publishing.

Submitted 4/4/2026. Accepted 20/5/2026