

**Notes on the Biology and Host Plants of the Australian Leaf Beetle  
*Podagrica submetallica* (Blackburn, 1894) (Coleoptera:  
Chrysomelidae: Alticinae)**

Trevor J. HAWKESWOOD\* Pierre H. JOLIVET\*\*

\*2/270 Terrace Road, North Richmond, New South Wales, Australia, 2754

e-mail: hawkeswoodtj@hotmail.com

\*\*67 Bould. Sout, F-75012 Paris FRANCE

**ABSTRACT**

A new host (food) plant *Solanum stelligerum* Sm. (Solanaceae) is recorded for the Australian flea beetle *Podagrica submetallica* (Blackburn, 1894) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Alticinae) from Victoria Point, Brisbane, Queensland. Little is known of the biology of this species which has been previously recorded from species of *Abutilon*, *Gossypium*, *Hibiscus*, *Sida* (Malvaceae) and *Duboisia*, *Solanum* (Solanaceae) as well as from the purported host of *Mentha* (Lamiaceae).

*Key words:* Chrysomelidae, Alticinae, *Podagrica submetallica*, biology, host plants

**INTRODUCTION**

The biology of the Australian flea beetle fauna (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Alticinae) is poorly known. Recent publications by the first author and others (viz. Hawkeswood, 1988; Hawkeswood & Furth, 1994) have greatly increased the known host plants of a number of native species but there is almost an unlimited amount of data to be gathered at the present time. The need for more general biological observations has never been more acute due to a lack of entomologists, funding and the disappearance of beetle habitats through clearing and fires. Recent