

# Notes on New Zealand Insects and Records of Introduced Species

E. S. GOURLAY,

Entomology Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research,  
Nelson.

## COLEOPTERA

In the collections of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, is a carabid beetle, collected in Southland by A. Philpott, labelled The Hump, 6/2/12; on a label underneath in Broun's handwriting is the determination "3392 ♂", which is *Taenarthrus philpotti* Broun. The type specimen of this species was obtained by Philpott at the same locality in December, 1910.

Characters by which Broun (1914) differentiated his genus *Taenarthrus* from *Loxomerus* Chaud. are included by Jeannel (1938) in his conception of *Loxomerus*; Jeannel's description and figures of *L. capito* Jeann. correspond exactly with *T. philpotti*, so the latter becomes *Loxomerus philpotti* with *L. capito* a synonym. It is unfortunate that Broun, in his examination of *L. philpotti*, should have removed the genitalia from the 6/2/12 specimen, so making it impossible to tie in this last character of identification.

During January and February, 1960, a number of adults of the cerambycid *Coptomma variegatum* Fabr. was reared from a dying kowhai, *Edwardsia tetraptera* J. Mull., their occurrence being in the trunk and large diameter branches only, of a tree in a property adjacent to the Entomology Division Station, Nelson. Miller (1925) states that *C. variegatum* has been reared from tawa, and the writer has taken this species on Stephens Island, where tawa and kowhai do not occur, so additional host associations are possible.

Judging by the number of adults recovered, an Australian cerambycid, *Callidopsis scutellaris* Fab. appears to have become established in the North Island. Records of its occurrence, assembled from material in several collections are: Whakarara, Waipawa, Hawke's Bay, 20/12/35, F. Gardner; Pongaroa, Wellington Province, April, 1959; Wellington, Orongorongos, July, 1951, dead in log, D. N. Edwards; Palmerston North\*, 4/11/56, J. I. Townsend; and Upper Hutt\*, August, 1958, D. Manson.

The anthribid *Doticus palmaris* Pascoe, commonly known as the apple beetle, was recorded by the writer (1929) under the name of *D. pestilens* Oliff, from apple mummies and dry galls of

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\* Collected dead, in spiders' webs.

*Uromycladium notabile* McAlpine, on black wattle, *Acacia decurrens* Willd.; the figure given then of the adult beetle (p. 369) is that of a male and not a female. Bovie (1905), reduced *D. pestilens* to synonymy with *D. palmaris*.

Additional host records from Nelson city area can now be added, all from mummified fruits which were still attached to the trees, although some records go back for several years. Hosts are peach, *Amagdylus persica* Linn., almond, *Prunus communis* Fritsch, apricot, *Prunus triflora* Roxb., lemon, *Citrus medica* Linn., pomegranate, *Punica granatum* Linn. and loquat, *Eriobotrya japonica* Lindl.

On one loquat tree, a large proportion of fruits fail to mature properly, and these persist as dry mummies for at least two years. In the older mummies, larvae in all stages of development were present in midwinter, also a few adults were emerging. Larvae bore into and feed on the dry fruit-pulp area first, then transfer to the large thin skinned seeds where development is completed. With almonds, only a thin layer of fruit pulp adheres to the stone, yet several *D. palmaris* larvae can develop satisfactorily, while with increasing pulp content, up to the maximum found in lemons, the other hosts can support much larger field populations. *D. palmaris* can be considered one of the easiest subjects to rear under laboratory conditions, for, quite undisturbed, generation after generation in succeeding years can be produced in fruit mummies, until exhaustion of the pulp content occurs.

Amongst miscellaneous rearings by the writer, from host plants, are *Stephanorhynchus tuberosus* Broun, *Pactola variabilis* Pasc., *Tetrorea cilipes* White, *Chalcodrya variegata* Redt. and *Platycephala wollastoni* (Sharp) from small diameter branches of *Nothopanax arboreum* (Forst.), Third House 2,000ft, Dun Mt. Tramway, Nelson, January, 1938. *P. variabilis* and *P. wollastoni* were associated with the cambium area, while the others worked in cambium and into woody tissues, frequently pupating (*T. cilipes* and *C. variegata*) in the central, wide pith cavity. *Psepholax simplex* Pasc. was cut out, as well developed adults, from larger branches of *Nothopanax arboreum*, 19/7/56, from the same locality.

*Stephanorhynchus crassus* Broun was reared in considerable numbers from seed capsules of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* Banks & Sol. from Forsyth Island, Pelorus Sound, 8/11/49, and also from seed capsules of *Pittosporum eugenioides* A. Cunn., Nelson, October, 1949.

The weevil known in New Zealand as Argentine wheat stem weevil, under the name *Hyperodes griseus* Hust., has been identified by Father Kuschel as *H. bonariensis* Kusch., who states also (*in litt.*) that *Asynonychus godmani* Crotch is a synonym of *A. cervinus* Boh.

## DIPTERA

The principal larval food of *Arachnocampa luminosa* (Skuze) (Mycetophilidae) in the Roding pipeline tunnel at Stoke, Nelson, in January, is the adult tipulid *Rhamphophila obscuripennis* Tonn. These tipulids are caught by glutinous droplets on the dependent threads of the "web" of *A. luminosa*, whose larvae then suck out the fluid contents, so that perfect specimens of *R. obscuripennis* may be recovered after this devitalisation.

During the last three years there has appeared in Nelson, a large sarcophagid fly, identified by E. O. Pearson of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology as *Sarcophaga crassipalpis* Macq., who remarks (*in litt.*) "This species is mainly Holarctic but is known from Australia (the only Australian species with red genital segments)". Previously unrecorded in New Zealand, *S. crassipalpis* has been collected at Nelson in large numbers and occurs in the surrounding districts; it has also been reported, in May, 1959, to be not uncommon at Gisborne and often seen about the beaches. Distribution in North and South Islands is probably already very extensive.

## HETEROPTERA

In describing *Phthirocoris magnus*, Woodward (1956) refers to specimens taken by the writer at Auckland Islands, which he assumes to be this species; these have been compared with Woodward's description and are *P. magnus*.

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