

NOTES ON THE GENUS *ACTIZETA* Pascoe, 1875. (COLEOPTERA, TENEBRIONIDAE)

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Pascoe (1875 : 215) described two species in the genus: *Actizeta albata* and *A. ammobioides*. I have examined the types of these nominal species in the British Museum (Natural History), and about 30 specimens from various New Zealand beaches. Freshly emerged individuals are densely clothed with scales (typical *albata*), while others show various stages of abrasion. The type of *ammobioides* is apparently an extreme example in which almost all the scales have been removed. There are no other differences between the two "species", so they must be synonymised.

A. albata was designated by Gebien (1939 : 488) as the type species of the genus. Both were described in the same publication and on the same page by Pascoe (1875 : 215). *A. albata* was the species chosen for illustration by Pascoe. The name *ammobioides* is clumsy and misleading. I therefore select *albata* as the senior synonym:

Actizeta albata Pascoe, 1875. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (4) 16: 215; plate 5, fig. 5. Broun, 1880. *Man. N.Z. Col.* 1: 360. Hudson, 1934. *N.Z. Beetles*: 85.

ammobioides Pascoe, 1875. *l.c.*: 215 (new synonymy). Broun, 1880. *l.c.*: 359-60.

I have a single specimen of an undescribed species, which differs from *albata* in its smaller size, more elongate form, and in the absence of a large dentate projection near the middle of the outer edge of the anterior tibia. This was collected on sand at Ocean Beach, near Whangarei Heads, on 9.vii.1957. Description and naming of this species must await more adequate material.

Pascoe (1875) stated that *Actizeta ammobioides* "is like *Ammobius rufus*, and about the same size . . ." *Actizeta* was listed by Gebien (1939 : 488) in the tribe Opatrini between the Palaearctic genera *Ammobius* Guer. and *Psammestu* Rei., but it is not closely related to either. In Koch's (1956) key it runs out to the tribe Melanimini, but differs from all known members of that tribe in several important respects. It may be referred tentatively to Melanimini at present as detailed consideration of its correct systematic position is outside the scope of this note.

Actizeta albata is found on littoral sand dunes in New Zealand, walking on loose sand, or under logs or vegetation. Adults of *Ammobius rufus* were found on loose dry sand amongst sparse vegetation, a short distance above high water mark, on Arenal de Son Servera, Majorca, Spain, in May, 1964. Larvae of neither genus are known at present. Many of the resemblances between the adults are doubtless due to the similar habitats that they occupy.

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NOTES ON MOSQUITOES OF NEW ZEALAND I. MAORIGOELDIA ARGYROPLUS WALKER (DIPTERA, CULICIDAE, SABETHINI)

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Investigations in Westland have produced evidence for arbovirus infections in man (Hogg *et al.*, 1963) in wild and domestic birds (Ross *et al.*, 1964). Ross *et al.*, (1963) have isolated viral agents from two species of mosquitoes, *Culiseta (Climacura) tonnoiri* Edwards and *Culex (Culex) pervigilans* Bergroth, which breed in very large numbers in Westland during the warmer months of the year.

Only one other species of mosquito has been recorded hitherto from Westland, the rare and aberrant *Corethrella novae-zealandiae* Tonnoir, which was collected by Tonnoir near Otira in 1922. During the last two years however, a sylvan species, *Maorigoeldia argyropus* has been found, both at Whataroa and the Okarito Lagoon, which appears to be one of the main foci of epizootic viruses in Westland.

Maorigoeldia is an endemic genus known only by the monotypic species *argyropus* Walker. The genus is placed in the tribe Sabethini, a primitive group of mosquitoes predominantly neotropical in distribution. They are almost entirely restricted to breeding places in dead and living plant material. A few species have become adapted to breeding in artificial containers, snail shells, and rock holes.