

FALSE SCORPIONS (Pseudoscorpionidea) FROM THE AUCKLAND ISLANDS

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Abstract: Three false scorpions from Auckland Is. are reported upon, including *Apatochernes pterodromae* which is here described as new.

Hitherto was only a single species of false scorpion known from the Auckland Islands, namely *Nesochernes gracilis* Beier. R. A. Falla, Director, Dominion Museum, Wellington, J. L. Gressitt and K. A. J. Wise, B. P. Bishop Museum, collected three other species, of which one is described as new. The two remaining species are known also from Campbell Island.

Apatochernes pterodromae Beier, n. sp. Fig. 1.

Uniformly reddish brown, abdominal tergites 2 & 3 each with a paler spot sublaterally. Carapace distinctly longer than broad, densely and evenly granulate, but metazona nearly smooth medially; both transverse furrows broad and deep, the subbasal one only a little nearer to hind border than to submedian furrow; hind border with 8 marginal bristles, which are distinctly clavate. Eye-spots wanting. Abdominal tergites divided, densely and rather coarsely granulate; each of the middle 1/2 tergites with 6 clavate marginal bristles and 1 lateral border bristles, without discal bristle. Ultimate tergite with 6 clavate bristles, without tactile bristles. Abdominal sternites nearly smooth, with simple, acuminate bristles. Pleural membrane densely and sharply granulate. Palm of chelicerae with 5 bristles only, *B* and *SB* dentate apically. Galea not forked, but with a subbasal branch and 4 short branches distally. Pedipalps rather stout, very densely granulate, the hand also. Medial vestitural bristles of femur and tibia distinctly clavate and dentate. Lateral tubercles of trochanter high. Femur, which is abruptly pedicellate, 2.6×, tibia 2.2×, hand 1.6×, the whole chela, with pedicel 2.9×, without pedicel 2.7× longer than broad. Fingers a little longer than hand without pedicel, with a relatively great number of accessory teeth (9-10 laterally and 3-4 medially each). Tactile seta *it* more than 2× as far from top of fixed finger than from *ist*, *st* of movable finger distinctly nearer to *t* than to *sb*. Tarsus of the 4th pair of legs without tactile bristle. Measurements: body, length ♀ 2 mm; carapace, length 0.85 mm, breadth 0.73 mm; pedipalps: femur, length 0.68, breadth 0.26 mm, tibia, length 0.68 mm, breadth 0.31 mm, hand, length 0.72 mm, breadth 0.44 mm, fingers, length 0.66 mm.

Holotype 1♀, Port Ross, Ocean Is., Auckland Is., ex *Pterodroma lessoni* nest, 28. XII. 1962, R. A. Falla.

This species is closely related to *A. curtulus* Beier and *A. nestoris* Beier from New Zealand. It differs from both by the tactile seta *it* being much more distant from the top of the fixed finger. *A. pterodromae* differs from *curtulus* moreover by the stouter pedipalps and the abruptly pedicellate femur, from *nestoris* by the greater measurements, by the sub-basal transverse furrow of the carapace only a little nearer to the hind margin than to the submedian furrow, and by the tactile seta *st* being approximate to *t*. *A. pterodromae* is also closely related to *A. antarcticus* Beier from Campbell I. by the nearly uniform color.

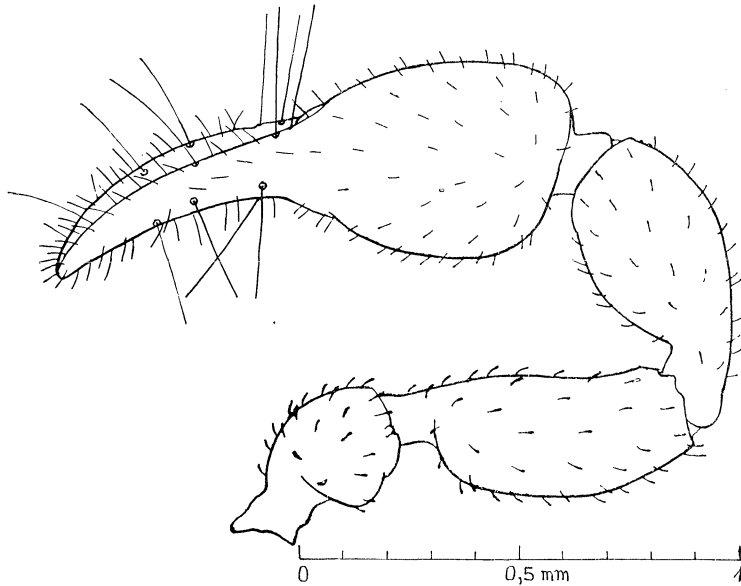


Fig. 1. *Apatochernes pterodromae* n. sp., right pedipalp of ♀.

Apatochernes antarcticus Beier

1 ♀, Crozier Pt., Auckland Is., under grass roots, 28. XII. 1962, Wise; 8 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 8 nymphs of various stages, Rose I., under dead leaves of *Carex*, rotten wood, in *Poa* mold, and in a rabbit burrow, 5, 8. I. 1963, Gressitt; 2 ♀♀, Port Ross, Enderby I., top of W. cliff, under stones, 2. I. 1962 & 17. I. 1963, Wise; French I., *Poa*, 2. I. 1963, Gressitt.

This species and the following one hitherto known from Campbell I. only.

Systellochernes zonatus Beier

2 ♀♀, 2 Tritonymphs, Crozier Pt., Auckland Is., kelp on beach 25 & 30. XII. 1962, Gressitt; 1 Deutonymph, Tucker Pt., Auckland Is., kelp, 19. I. 1963; 1 ♀, 3 deutonymphs, Ranui Cove, Auckland Is., rata leaf mold, 3. I. 1963, Gressitt; 5 ♀♀, Auckland I., ex lichen on bark, 27. XII. 1962, Wise; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, Ewing I., *Olearia*, 4-7. I. 1963, Gressitt; 1 ♀, Ocean I., *Stilbocarpa*, 29. XII. 1962, Gressitt.