

## A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *PRODONTRIA* (MELOLONTHINAE : COLEOPTERA)

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The genus *Prodontria* Broun (1904) is confined to the south of New Zealand and to southern outlying islands (Fig. 1). Only one species (*P. praelatella* (Broun)) has been taken alive in any number, and five of the 10 known species are represented in collections by the holotypes only. It is unlikely that specimens are as rare as present collections indicate and an improved knowledge of the habits of the genus should produce a number of further species and possibly important data on distribution and speciation in relation to habitat.

Apart from the short metasternum producing a short, broad facies, the characteristics of *Prodontria* are similar to those of *Odontria*. This similarity extends to genitalia, antennae, and tibial characters, vestiture and texture. It seems probable that *Prodontria* is derived from *Odontria*, the latter genus showing alliance in metasternal characters to such genera as *Sericesthis* Dejean and *Scitala* Erichson in the fairly closely allied Australian melolonthine fauna.

### *Prodontria grandis* n. sp.

The largest species of the genus so far discovered. Probably most closely allied to *P. longitarsis* (Broun) from the Snares Islands.

Colour dark brown on the holotype, the head and ventral areas darker than other parts; tibiae and tarsi ferruginous.

Head large and broad, the eyes small. Frons sparsely, irregularly punctate, nitid; clypeus more uniformly and densely punctate, nitid, narrowly reflected on anterior margin.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) strongly convex, transverse, with anterior and posterior angles moderately produced and acute. Texture velvety, surface uniformly covered with decumbent hairs and with elongate marginal bristles (Fig. 3).

Elytra (Fig. 2) strongly convex, texture and vestiture as on pronotum, with additional elongate bristles on humeral and anterior discal areas; striation obscure.

Antenna (Fig. 4) of female short, the lamellae very short and broad.

Fore tibia (Fig. 5) as illustrated.

Ventral surfaces nitid and very sparsely haired.

Length 19.5 mm.

Breadth 11.1 mm.

Breadth of head 6.2 mm.

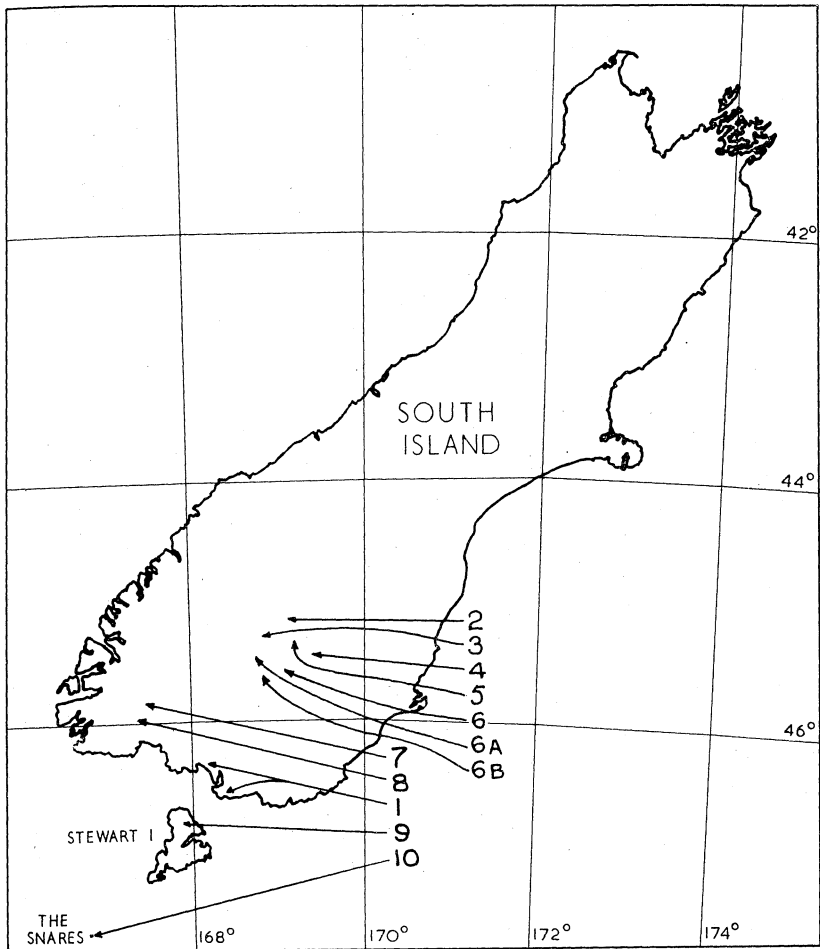
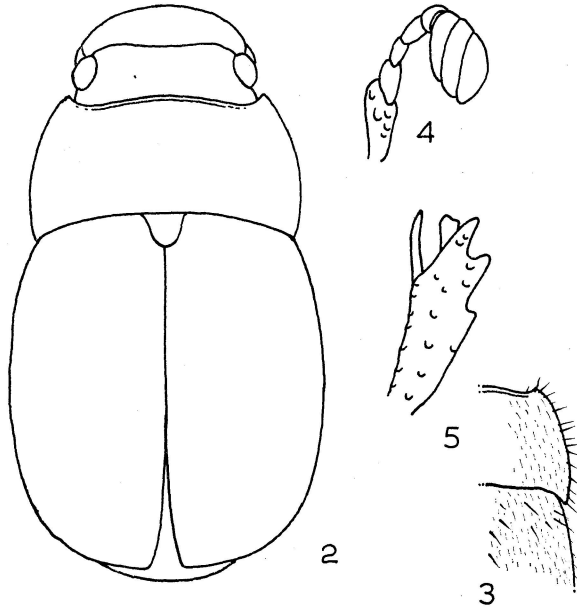


FIG. 1.—Outline map of South Island, Stewart Island and The Snares, showing distribution of the genus *Prodontria*.

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>P. praelatella</i> (Broun);  | 2. <i>P. lewsi</i> Broun;          |
| 3. <i>P. pinguis</i> Giv.;         | 4. <i>P. modesta</i> (Broun);      |
| 5. <i>P. bicolorata</i> Giv.;      | 6. <i>P. capito</i> Broun;         |
| 6A. <i>P. capito</i> var. A. Giv.; | 6B. <i>P. capito</i> var. B. Giv.; |
| 7. <i>P. setosa</i> Giv.;          | 8. <i>P. truncata</i> Giv.;        |
| 9. <i>P. grandis</i> n. sp.        | 10. <i>P. longitarsis</i> (Broun). |



FIGS 2-5—*Prodontria grandis* n. sp.

FIG. 2—Entire female, dorsal.

FIG. 3—Antenna, female.

FIG. 4—Fore tibia, female.

FIG. 5—Pronotum and humeral area of elytron, showing vestiture.

Holotype female collected by Mr MacArthur, Mt Anglem, Stewart Island, September 1962. Entomology Division Collection, Nelson, presented by the New Zealand Forest Service.

Male unknown. The holotype was dead when collected and may therefore not be representative of true colour. A pair of elytra, apparently of the same species, collected by Mr J. I. Townsend on 29 January 1962 are in the collection of the Entomology Division, D.S.I.R., at Nelson.

#### REFERENCE

BROUN, T. 1904: *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (7) 14: 53.