BUPRESTID BEETLES IN NEW ZEALAND.

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Many Buprestid beetles are important pests of timber trees. There are two native species in New Zealand but neither of these appear to be primary pests. The larvae of *Nascioides enyssii* Sharp are frequently found under the bark of dead or dying *Nothofagus* spp. but do not appear to be the primary cause of death. The larvae of *Neocuris eremita* White are so far only known from dead European Elm*. The adults and immature stages of these two species have been described in a previous paper (Dumbleton, *Stylaps* 1, 2, pp. 41-48, 1932). It should be noted here that figures 11 and 25 were inadvertently transposed. Hutton (Index Faunae Novae Zealandiae) records *Buprestis aurulentata* L. (*B. lucta*) a North American pest of conifers and *Stigmodera gulielmi*, possibly an Australian species, as present in New Zealand. Thomson (The Naturalisation of Animals and Plants in New Zealand) states that *B. aurulentata* is common in Taranaki and so also does Mr. W. W. Smith but I have been unable to obtain specimens from him. The species *Amilara acutipennis* Thery described as from New Zealand is probably an error in locality while *Mauriella novae zealandiae* Obenberger is a synonym of *Neocuris eremita*. Mr. H. J. Carter, the Australian authority on the Buprestids informs me that *eremita* is not a *Neocuris* but is near *Pseudamilara*, (Thery Bull Ent. Soc. France 1925, p. 226). For this reason Obenberger's generic name may stand.

Adults of *Nascioides enyssii* were collected in 1932 from the bark of *Nothofagus* in Eve's Valley, Nelson: they fed readily on the leaves of *N. menzieii*, attacking the leaf from the edge. Three females under observation lived for 30 days or more; the female explored the surface of a piece of bark of *N. solandri* with the tip of the extended ovipositor, apparently searching for cracks in the bark. The ovipositor is capable of being extended to nearly half the length of the elytra. The egg was finally laid in a small hole, the process taking about two minutes. The egg is white and opaque and ovoid in shape but conforms to the shape of the crevice in which it is deposited. The length is 0.81 mm. and the width 0.55 mm.

Larvae and prepupae of *Neocuris eremita* were also collected from the dead branches of European Elm in Nelson. An egg found in a container in which the adults were caged was sub-circular in outline, and flattened. The chorion was smooth and the diameter of the egg was 0.86 mm. The first stage larvae bored directly through the bottom of the egg and into the side of the pill box.

*Note*—Larvae of *Neocuris eremita* were found at Butterfly Reserve, Wellington, boring in small dead branches of *Suttonia salicina*, April, 1939. G.B.R.

256