

INSECTS OF CAMPBELL ISLAND. COLEOPTERA: PTINIDAE¹

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Abstract: Only 1 introduced ptinid beetle, *Ptinus tectus* Boieldieu, is known from Campbell I. and the Auckland Is.

The family Ptinidae (spider beetles) has not previously been recorded from the subantarctic Campbell and Auckland Is. It is now recorded only in association with imported foodstuffs.

Ptinus tectus Boieldieu, 1856

CAMPBELL I.: 1, Beeman Camp, 2-50 m, in food stores, 2.XII.1961, J. L. Gressitt; 1, in bread baked at camp, 6-11.XII.1961, Gressitt; 1, ex packet of food from camp kitchen, 5.III.1963, K. A. J. Wise. AUCKLAND I.: 3, Ranui Cove, camp, bred ex old dried peas, XII. 1962, Wise.

The Auckland I. specimens were bred from dried peas in an old open tin found in December 1962 in the Cape Expedition camp which was used during World War II (1941-1945). A sample of the peas, seen to be infested by moth larvae and psocids, was brought back to New Zealand in a sealed jar which was opened in March 1963. One live and 2 dead specimens of *Ptinus tectus* were found in the jar. Both the camp at Auckland I. and the permanent meteorological station on Campbell I. have always been serviced by ship direct from New Zealand thus the introduction of stored products pests is to be expected.

In recent years, Howe (1959) and Wise (1956, 1961) have discussed the species *Ptinus tectus* which is a cosmopolitan stored products pest. It is the common spider beetle infesting stored food products in New Zealand and has been recorded once from the Chatham Is. In a paper previously unnoticed by me, Broun (1911) recorded *Ptinus fur* as an introduced species at Chatham Is. but this also probably refers to *Ptinus tectus* as all New Zealand specimens determined by Broun, as *fur* have since been identified as *tectus*.

REFERENCES

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