

Review of the New Zealand endemic family Cyclaxyridae, new family (Coleoptera: Polyphaga)

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Abstract. In this paper we review the endemic New Zealand cucujooid beetle family Cyclaxyridae, fam. nov., which includes only the genus *Cyclaxyra* Broun, 1893. One new species is described (*Cyclaxyra jelineki* sp. nov.) and one new synonymy is established (*C. politula* (Broun, 1881) = *C. impressa* Broun, 1915, syn. nov.), resulting in the recognition of two valid species in the family. Lectotype of *C. politula* is designated. Larvae are described and illustrated and phylogenetic relationships and biology are discussed.

Keywords. Coleoptera, Cucujoidea, Cyclaxyridae, Phalacridae, taxonomy, new species, sooty mold, sooty mould, fumagine fungus, New Zealand

Introduction and Taxonomic history

Cyclaxyra is an historically enigmatic genus of New Zealand endemic Cucujoidea with a long, convoluted taxonomic history out of proportion to its prominence in collections. Adults of the genus are readily distinguished from almost all other Coleoptera by the possession of a single pair of deep elytral epipleural foveae lined with stiff setae (Fig. 3), except for the New Zealand leiodid *Baeosilpha rufescens* Broun, 1895, which possesses a reduced antennomere 8 and other characters typical of Leiodidae. The foveae of adult *Cyclaxyra* Broun, 1893 are often filled with a white solid substance of waxy appearance and unknown composition (Fig. 4). In the New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Auckland (NZAC), three species were identified in the collection, and one series from Mt Domett in Northwest Nelson was labeled as a new species by the late coleopterist Charles Watt. Because of the importance of this group as an endemic family, and one that is strictly associated with sooty moulds (KLIMASZEWSKI & WATT 1997; LESCHEN et al., in press), we carried out an intensive study to verify the number of species and place the taxonomy of the family on a sound foundation.