

A FURTHER RECORD OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DUNG BEETLE

*Epirinus aeneus* (Scarabaeidae)

R.M. EMBERSON

DEPT OF ENTOMOLOGY, LINCOLN COLLEGE

Emberson & Matthews (1973) reported the presence of the South African coprine scarab *Epirinus aeneus* Wiedemann on the basis of two specimens collected at Waimari Beach north of Christchurch in 1969 and 1971. In spite of sporadic efforts at collecting the species over the intervening years no further specimens have been found from this locality and the long term establishment of the species remained in doubt. Recently a third specimen collected at Waimakariri Lagoon in October 1982 has been seen. This is a minimum of 6 km north of the previous known locality. The specimen bears the data "on top of sand" which while not very precise, does suggest, combined with the locality of the previous specimens, that the species may be restricted to coastal sand dunes. Its habits in the Cape Province of South Africa do not seem to have been recorded.

The new locality and the spread of dates over thirteen years indicate that *E. aeneus* is permanently established in New Zealand although still apparently restricted to a fairly small area and probably not very numerous. Its establishment seems to parallel that of the artificially introduced *Copris incertus* which was unknown for nearly twenty years following its release near Whangarei in 1956.

REFERENCE

- EMBERSON, R.M. & MATTHEWS, E.G. 1973. Introduced Scarabaeinae (=Coprinae) (Coleoptera) in New Zealand. New Zealand Entomologist 5: 346-350.