The connexivum of the second dorsal abdominal segment is triangular and larger than in *maculosus;* it borders the anterior half of the lateral margin of its own discal tergite and the lateral margin of the first discal tergite. Usinger and Matsuda describe the fifth dorsal abdominal segment in the male as about half as long as the fourth segment at the middle; and the sixth segment as about one and a half times as long as the fifth. If their system of numbering the dorsal abdominal segments, which they established in the descriptions of *tenuicornis* and in the anterior segments of this species, is followed it becomes evident that in this description of the posterior male abdomen there are discrepancies in the numbering of the segments. It would seem that their fourth segment should become the fifth, their fifth become the sixth and their sixth become the seventh.

In the specimens examined the hemelytra when present reached to, or almost to the posterior border of the seventh segment except in three specimens collected by Mr E. S. Gourlay at Balloon Hut, Mt Arthur Tableland, Nelson; these are brachypterous, the hemelytra reaching to the middle of the sixth segment. In these specimens the posterior border of the propleuron is marked with irregular vertical rows of smooth granules, but the variability of the sculpturing of this plate has been remarked on above. On the evidence of other characters these Balloon Hut specimens must be included in this species although a decision on whether subspecific rank should be accorded them must rest until a greater range can be examined from this and neighbouring localities. It is of interest that specimens from Mt Peel, which is adjacent to Balloon Hut, and from Mt Arthur do not exhibit brachyptery.

Specimens Examined: Holotype, male, Arthurs Pass, N.Z., VII.22, H. Hamilton, J. G. Myers Coll. B.M. 1937–789 (B.M.); Allotype, female and Paratypes 1 male, 1 female, same data as holotype (B.M.); 1 ♀ 1 ♂, same data as holotype (B.M.); 3 ♂♂ 1 ♀, Arthurs Pass, 12.XI.22, J. G. Myers, J. G. Myers Coll. B.M. 1937–789 (B.M.); 7 ♀♀ 2 ♂♂, Tararua Ra., 2,000ft, 8.7.22, Myers, J. G. Myers Coll. B.M. 1937–789 (B.M.); 1 ♂ 1 ♀, Mt Arthur Tableland, 26.2.21, A.P. (E.D.); 3 ♀♀ 1 ♂ Mt Arthur, 4,500ft, 26.2.21, A. Philpott (E.D.); 1 ♀ 2 ♂♂, Balloon Hut, 16.2.31, E. S. Gourlay (E.D.); 2 ♀♀ 1 ♂ Mt Peel, 4,000ft, 21.1.43, E. S. Gourlay (E.D.); 8 ♀♀ 10 ♂♂ Belgrove, 1.12.55, E. S. Gourlay (E.D.); 2 ♀♀ 1 ♂, Arthur's Pass, 12.XI.22, J. G. Myers (E.D.); 1 ♂ 1 ♀, Tararua Ra., 8.7.22, 2,000ft, J. G. Myers (E.D.); 1 ♀ Tararua Ra., 3,000ft, 20.2.20, 123a (E.D.); 8 ♀♀ 6 ♂♂, Mt Hikurangi, 4,500ft under bark, 3.1.1958, J. C. Watt (A.M.); 3 ♀♀, Whakapapanui Valley Bush, under bark *Nothofagus* log, D. R. Cowley, 20.11.63 (A.U.).

Discussion

The present study has shown that the genus *Isodermus* is not as homogeneous as previously supposed. Superficial examination of the five species shows that, on the one hand, there are *planus* (Australia and Tasmania) and *tenuicornis* which are large, with a pale smooth and glossy abdominal dorsum and a distinctly waisted shape; and on the other, *crassicornis* and *maculosus*, usually smaller than the other species, with a dark or mottled abdominal dorsum having an irregular surface, and with little waist. Occupying an intermediate position is *gayi* (S. America), which is large and somewhat waisted, but with a dark abdominal dorsum, with an irregular surface. When less obvious characters are considered a similar grouping is arrived at. The three species *planus, tenuicornis* and *gayi* have the second antennal segment circular in cross section except at the extreme base, and the rostrum arises at the apex of the head. In *planus* and *tenuicornis* the