

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

ZOOLOGY

VOL. 7

No. 11

19 JANUARY, 1966

The Biology and Behaviour of the Beech Buprestid, *Nascioides enysi* (Sharp) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) with Notes on its Ecology and Possibilities for its Control

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[Received by the Editor, 29 April 1964.]

Abstract

THE life history and habits of *Nascioides enysi* (Sharp) are described. The ecological relationship between the insect and its host is examined and the possibility of biological, silvicultural and chemical control of the insect is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Nascioides enysi (Sharp) is one of two buprestids native to New Zealand. It has a host range limited to the 5 species of *Nothofagus* Blume (Fagaceae) endemic to New Zealand. Adult beetles are active between late October and February and eggs are deposited in bark fissures and under bark scales of host trees. The larval stages feed in the cambium/phloem layers and pupation occurs in the bark. First discovered by J. D. Enys in Canterbury Beech forests, it was described by Sharp in 1877, from specimens sent to him by C. M. Wakefield, of Christchurch. In the 90 years since its discovery, many instances of its presence in the bark of dying and dead beech trees have been recorded (Miller, 1925; Dumbleton, 1932; Hudson, 1934).

This study was done between 1956 and 1958, material being obtained from the Kaimanawa Ranges, east of Lake Taupo, from various localities in Nelson Province and from the vicinity of Lake Manapouri. Laboratory tests were commenced at the Forest Research Institute, Rotorua, and continued at Nelson and Reefton, where most of the data were obtained. The preliminary results, presented herein, in many instances, merely point the way to further lines of research.

SYNONYMY

There has been some confusion as to the correct spelling of the specific name. Whereas Dumbleton (1932) and Hudson (1934) have used "*enysii*", reference

Published by the Royal Society of New Zealand, c/o Victoria University of Wellington, P.O. Box 196, Wellington.