Auckland, and three immature females on *Knightia excelsa* R. Br., in the same locality; collections by E. Collyer. Additional specimens have been collected from the following localities and examined by the present author: *Nothofagus fusca* and *Carpodetus serratus,* Lake Rotoroa, Nelson Lakes National Park; *Pseudopanax crassifolium,* Napier; *Nothofagus* sp., Sherry River, Nelson (E. Collyer); moss on rocks, Kurow, Central Otago; moss on *Nothofagus menziesii,* Governor's Bush, Mount Cook (T. G. Wood).

MATERIAL: Holotype in B.M.N.H.; paratype in D.S.I.R. (forwarded by D. C. M. Manson from Department of Agriculture, Levin, New Zealand). The present author has sent specimens to D.S.I.R., U.S.N.M. and S.A.M.

Genus ZETZELLIA Oudemans

Zetzellia Oudemans, 1927. *Ent. Ber., Amst.* 7(158): 263. Type species: *Zetzellia methlagli* Oudemans, 1927.

Agistemus Summers, 1960b. *Proc. ent. Soc. Wash.* 62: 234 (new combination).

RECOGNITION: Propodosomal plate bears three pairs of setae, a pair of eyes and a pair of irregularly shaped postocular bodies. Humeral and intercalary setae borne on individual platelets, two pairs of suranal setae borne on a single plate, arrangement of other hysterosomal setae and plates variable, but setae *c* and *1m* never on separate plates. Two pairs of setae on maxillicoxae. Only one seta on coxa II. One or two pairs of paragenital setae. Palps normal: Tibial claw half to as long as tarsus; latter with terminal sensillum as a trident with short prongs. Chelicerae completely separated.

The definition of the genus (Oudemans, 1927; Summers, 1960b) was broadened by Gonzalez (1965) to include species with a divided median hysterosomal plate (such as *Z. maori* Gonzalez, *Z. mapuchina* Gonzalez), and the same author also clarified the status of the genus by illustrating for the first time the type species, *Z. methlagli* Oudemans. Summers (1960b) erected the genus *Agistemus* for several *Zetzellia*-like species with a large, entire, median hysterosomal plate bearing dorso-lateral setae *la* and *lm* and dorso-median setae *a, b* and *c*. *Agistemus* and *Zetzellia* have many features in common and the genera can only be distinguished by the location of setae *la,* which are on the median plate in *Agistemus* and on independent platelets in *Zetzellia.* The arrangement of dorsal plates in *Zetzellia* is very variable, but it is possible to distinguish four groups (Fig. 14 C, D, E, F), typified by *maori, australis, mali* and *methlagli,* which exhibit a gradual change from three pairs of small median plates to a large integral median plate. *Agistemus* has a fairly uniform arrangement of dorsal plates (Fig. 14 G, H) which appears to be the next step from the *methlagli* group in integration of the median plate. According to Gonzalez (1965) *Agistemus striolatus* Gonzalez and *Zetzellia mali* (Ewing) go through similar ontogenetic changes in organisation of dorsal plates, which in the proto-nymph stage is similar to the adult stage in *Z. maori.* Studies on *Zetzellia* and *Agistemus* led Gonzalez (1965) to suggest that "—*Agistemus* represents an evolutionary line apparently evolved from the *Zetzellia maori* group of species." Whilst agreeing with this, the present author suggests that this evidence is sufficient to justify enlarging the definition of *Zetzellia* to include all the species hitherto included in *Agistemus.* This arrangement appears to conform to current ideas on the definition of stigmaeid genera, where some genera (such as *Stigmaeus* and *Mediolata*) exhibit considerable variation in arrangements of plates and setae.

DISTRIBUTION: The genus has a world-wide distribution and 37 species are known: One cosmopolitan, two Holarctic, one American, one Southern Hemisphere, six Nearctic, four Palearctic, four Neotropical, six Ethiopian, five Oriental and eight Australian.