

TABLE II.—Occurrence of the known New Zealand Stigmaeidae in different habitats.  
Subjective index of frequency of occurrence given by: x rare  
xx infrequent  
xxx frequent

Species	Moss and forest litter	Bark	Foliage of trees and shrubs	Intertidal zone
<i>Ledermuelleria mixta</i>	xxx		x	
<i>Ledermuelleria simplex</i>	xxx			
<i>Stigmaeus summersi</i>	xxx			
<i>Stigmaeus longisetis</i>	xxx			
<i>Ledermuelleria distincta</i>	xx			
<i>Stigmaeus confusus</i>	xx	x		
<i>Ledermuelleria dumosa</i>	x			
<i>Ledermuelleria granulosa</i>	x			
<i>Ledermuelleria manapouriensis</i>	x			
<i>Ledermuelleria clavigera</i>	x			
<i>Ledermuelleria brevisetosa</i>	x			
<i>Stigmaeus rotundus</i>	x			
<i>Stigmaeus brevisetis</i>	x			
<i>Ledermuelleriopsis spinosa</i>	x			
<i>Ledermuelleriopsis incisa</i>	x			
<i>Pseudostigmaeus striatus</i>	x			
<i>Eryngiopus similis</i>	x			
<i>Mediolata simplex</i>	x	x		
<i>Ledermuelleria corticola</i>	x	xx		
<i>Eryngiopus bifidus</i>	x	x	x	
<i>Mediolata favulosa</i>	x	x	x	
<i>Zetzellia oudemansi</i>	x	x	x	
<i>Apostigmaeus navicella</i>		x		
<i>Mecognatha hirsuta</i>	x	xx	xx	
<i>Mediolata brevisetis</i>		x	x	
<i>Stigmaeus loadmani</i>			x	
<i>Zetzellia subreticulata</i>			x	
<i>Zetzellia gonzalezi</i>			x	
<i>Zetzellia antipoda</i>			x	
<i>Mediolata robusta</i>	x		xx	
<i>Eryngiopus arboreus</i>			xx	
<i>Mullederia arborea</i>			xx	
<i>Stigmaeus coprosmae</i>			xxx	
<i>Pseudostigmaeus collyerae</i>			xxx	
<i>Zetzellia maori</i>			xxx	
<i>Zetzellia collyerae</i>			xxx	
<i>Zetzellia novazelandica</i>			xxx	
<i>Zetzellia longiseta</i>			xxx	
<i>Stigmaeus rupicola</i>				x

Although the stigmaeid fauna of Asia, Africa, Australia and South America has scarcely been studied and the fauna of most regions is very imperfectly known, the occurrence of *Stigmaeus*, *Zetzellia*, *Ledermuelleria*, *Ledermuelleriopsis*, *Eryngiopus*, *Apostigmaeus*, *Cheyllostigmaeus* and *Mediolata* in New Zealand, Europe and North America suggests that most stigmaeid genera have a world-wide or nearly world-wide distribution. Certain genera, such as *Stigmaeus*, *Zetzellia*, *Ledermuelleria* and *Ledermuelleriopsis*, have distinct species-groups which are also distributed in these regions, although none of the Northern Hemisphere species occur in New Zealand. Two other New Zealand genera, *Mullederia* and *Pseudostigmaeus*, are known from other regions, and further collecting may show that the one indigenous genus, *Mecognatha*, is also widespread. It is almost certain that the New Zealand genera (with the possible exception of *Apostigmaeus*) are endemic and that adaptive radiation has occurred at the species level rather than at the generic level. This contrasts with the situation in certain other invertebrates such as earthworms of the family Megascolecidae (Lee, 1959) in which the 178 species known from New Zealand are distributed among 27 genera of which 13 are indigenous; the Melolonthinae (Given, 1952) in which the 77 known species are distributed among ten