

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

ZOOLOGY

VOL. 1

NO. 20

NOVEMBER 24, 1961.

[Continued from *Transactions of the Royal Society of N.Z.*, Volume 88, Part 4.]

A Checklist and Key to the Crustacea Isopoda of New Zealand and the Subantarctic Islands

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[Received by the Editor, May 22, 1961.]

Abstract

A checklist and key is given to the 78 genera and 168 species of Crustacea Isopoda recorded from New Zealand and the Subantarctic Islands.

INTRODUCTION

It is now some seventy-five years since Thomson and Chilton (1886) first issued their checklist of the Crustacea Isopoda of New Zealand, in which they recorded some 60 species. Since then, the number of recorded species has increased to 168, described and discussed, as the list of references indicates, in a great variety of papers, many of which were published outside New Zealand. As yet, there is no monograph of the New Zealand species and the limited number of reviews of New Zealand families or genera subsequently published are not sufficiently recent to be of much value. One, at least, is quite misleading.

As a first step towards a review, the following checklist has been prepared. For this purpose, the New Zealand and Subantarctic Islands Region has been taken to be that area between latitudes 28° S and 54° S and longitudes 160° E to 174° W. This includes Norfolk Island, the Kermadec Islands, the Chathams, The Snares, The Bounties, the Antipodes and Auckland and Campbell Islands. It excludes Lord Howe and the Macquarie Islands.

Many of the early descriptions, as one might expect, are often unhelpfully brief and poorly illustrated, yet the species themselves are often sufficiently distinctive in shape and ornamentation to be identified with some confidence by the non-specialist. A list of common species and a comprehensive key to the hitherto recorded New Zealand species, to be used in conjunction with the checklist, have therefore been included. However, it should not be immediately assumed that a specimen belongs unquestionably to the species which the key indicates until it has been checked against its description; many more species remain to be described from this region. It is also possible, since many of the original descriptions were