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New Zealand Earthworms in the Collections of the British
Museum (Natural History)*

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Abstract

NEW ZEALAND earthworms in the collections of the British Museum (Natural History) have been re-examined. The results, presented here, are supplementary to the author's monograph of New Zealand earthworms.

A small collection of New Zealand earthworms is held by the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). Most of the specimens were deposited in the Museum by F. E. Beddard who, between 1885 and 1896, described five new genera and fifteen new species of earthworms from specimens sent to him by W. W. Smith and Professor T. J. Parker. Type specimens of twelve of Beddard's species are included in the collection, together with types of species described by Baird and Cognetti de Martiis and a number of specimens of other species, mainly from Beddard's collections.

The author, in 1959, published a monograph of New Zealand earthworms. It was not possible to examine the British Museum collection before the monograph was published. As some of the species in the collection have not been recorded since the original description was published, descriptions in the monograph were copied from the published descriptions. It has now been possible to examine type specimens, and to amend and amplify the descriptions where necessary. This paper may therefore be regarded as a supplement to the monograph.

The following is a list of the specimens contained in the Museum collections, with comments and amendments to descriptions where necessary.

Family MEGASCOLECIDAE

Subfamily ACANTHODRILINAE

Genus EODRILUS Michaelsen emend. Pickford

Eodrillus annectens (Beddard) Fig. 1.

Syn. *Acanthodrilus annectens* Beddard, 1888: Quart. J. Micr. Sci., 29: 102.

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