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Ecology, Life History and Redescription of  
*Pericoptus truncatus* (Fabricius)

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*Abstract*

THE paper is intended as a first step towards a revision of the genus *Pericoptus* based on a knowledge of the distribution and bionomics of its constituent species. *Pericoptus truncatus* (Fab.) (Scarabaeidae, Dynastinae) occurs between the drift-wood zone and the first dune ridge on sandy beaches, probably throughout New Zealand. The duration of the larval stadia is very variable, so the life cycle may occupy either two or three years. All larval instars undertake long migrations on the beach surface. The pupa occurs at 18 to 30 inches below the beach surface in late summer and early autumn. The adults may emerge as early as mid-March but usually remain deeply buried until September. Broun's (1879) description of the final instar larva has been revised and greatly extended, and his description of the adult extended to include the detail of the tibial sculpture and the male genitalia.

INTRODUCTION

THE relevant New Zealand literature on the genus *Pericoptus* is confined to three papers by Broun (1879, 1880 and 1904), a short account by Hudson (1934), and a paper by Given (1955). The genus contains five described species, *P. truncatus* (Fab.), *P. punctatus* (White), *P. frontalis* Broun, *P. nitidulus* Broun and *P. stupidus* Sharp. Broun (1880 and 1904) gave descriptions of the first four species whose types are held by the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), and Broun (1880) described *P. stupidus* whose type is in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. Given (1955) figured the hind tibiae and male genitalia of the British Museum types, listed their type localities and gave an account of the synonymy.

Accounts of the immature forms are confined to *P. truncatus*. The final instar larva and its habitat have been dealt with in some detail by Broun (1879), and a more superficial account of larval form and habits was given by Hudson (1934).

Distribution records are scanty. Broun recorded *P. truncatus* from Great Barrier Island, and Hudson gave its distribution as "Wanganui and throughout the Wellington district, and is almost certainly to be found on the sea-coast elsewhere". Published localities for the other four species are confined to the type localities.