

The genus *Megacolabus* was erected by Broun to contain a new weevil species *M. sculpturatus*, based on a single specimen taken at Akaroa on the Banks Peninsula in the South Island. The species has never again been taken in spite of further collecting in the type locality.

Members of the genus are nocturnal feeders on low growing ferns usually located on the verge of native bush. Two species observed by the author mounted fern stems soon after dusk and proceeded to chew the underside of the fronds. It is assumed that they breed and hide by day in the leafmould about the base of the plants.

In 1926 Brookes erected a new genus *Callomaoria* to receive a species discovered by T. R. Harris at Ohakune. The description given for *Callomaoria* agrees with that of *Megacolabus* with the exception of the following statements: "Rostrum longer than thorax" as opposed to "nearly the length of thorax" as given by Broun, and "Funiculus . . . basal joint about two-thirds length of second" against "the two basal joints equal in length". These characters, however, are of specific value only. The antennal club is described by Brookes as "3-articulate" but in clean specimens, including the holotype of *C. harrisi*, the sutures and setal pattern of 4 segments, as indicated by Broun for *Megacolabus*, can be seen clearly under 48 × magnification. The genus *Callomaoria* is accordingly sunk under *Megacolabus*.

The members of *Megacolabus* possess a distinctive feature, not hitherto remarked upon, in the nodiform fold on each side of the metasternum between mid and hind coxae. This is not very obvious in the type specimen. A pattern of elevations on pronotum and elytra is discernable throughout the genus, becoming indistinct in some species and with additional nodules in others. The genus *Megacolabus* is redefined as follows:

Size range, 3.5–9.5 mm (excluding rostrum).

Cuticle for the most part dull with minutely reticulate microsculpture.

Head medianly foveate in front, globose below. Eyes oblique, oviform, nearly flat, acuminate below. Rostrum moderate, arched, about length of pronotum; scrobes beginning in apical portion and extending to base. Antennae with scape attaining but not touching eye; funicle pubescent, 7-segmented; club densely clothed, ovate, 4-segmented.

Pronotum rounded, somewhat depressed apically; surface of pronotum and elytra uneven, usually with granulate elevations. Scutellum absent. Prosternum emarginate in front. Metasternum short, with a nodiform fold on each side between mid and hind coxae.

Abdomen with segments 1 and 2 large, posterior margin of the first sinuate; segments 3 and 4 very narrow, depressed, truncate. Anterior coxae contiguous, mid coxae narrowly, hind coxae widely separated.

Legs with femora notched beneath near apex; tibiae flexuous, with an inferior longitudinal row of bristles, mucronate; corbels open; tarsi short, underside densely pubescent, third segment deeply bilobed.

In the male, the posterior dorsal segment is quadrate apically (Fig. 3i) while in the female it is more rounded (Fig. 3h). There is no other apparent sexual dimorphism.

CHARACTERS USED IN SPECIES SEPARATION

The known species of *Megacolabus* are superficially rather similar, with the exception of the type species *M. sculpturatus*. The most obvious differences are in the clothing, but this is the character most easily lost. The key for separation is therefore based mainly on sculpture and proportion. Drawings were made with the aid of a camera lucida. In those of tibiae, the inner surface is shown since this afforded an unobscured view of the mucrones. In the outline figures, position of the main elevations is indicated by a dotted line, while the scale pattern is marked by short, fine strokes for white, and thicker strokes for red-brown scales. The chitinisation of the male genitalia is distinctive. Aedeagi of all species except *M. sculpturatus* are figured and were used for final separation and synonymy. The tegmina, however, appeared to have little taxonomic value and are excluded from the drawings.