



A revision of the New Zealand click beetle genus *Amychus* Pascoe 1876 (Coleoptera: Elateridae: Denticollinae): with a description of a new species from the Three Kings Islands

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ABSTRACT

The New Zealand endemic click beetle genus *Amychus* Pascoe (Elateridae: Denticollinae: Ctenicerini) is revised. Three species are recognised: *A. candezei* Pascoe, *A. granulatus* (Broun) and *A. manawatawhi*, sp. nov. All species are described or redescribed from the adults. The larva of each species and the pupa of *A. candezei* are described for the first time. Lectotypes are designated for *A. candezei* Pascoe and *A. granulatus* (Broun). Keys to species for adults and larvae are given. The phylogenetic placement of the genus, biology and conservation of the species are discussed.

Key words: *Amychus candezei*; *Amychus granulatus*; *Amychus manawatawhi*; new species; lectotype; redescription; larval description; pupal description; distribution; biology; conservation

INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand elaterid fauna consists of 26 genera containing more than 132 native and mostly endemic species, and 3 adventive species (Klimaszewski and Watt 1997). Among these, the endemic genus *Amychus* Pascoe 1876 (Elateridae: Denticollinae: Ctenicerini) [Note: we are provisionally retaining a conservative taxonomy for family groups and not recognizing Gistel's (1848) nomenclature since many of his family-group taxa may be regarded as *nomen oblitum* (in prep.)] is highly distinctive due to its roughly textured bark-like dorsal surface, and unusually broad and depressed body form. Two species, *Amychus candezei* Pascoe 1876, and *A. granulatus* (Broun 1883), are included among the 17 New Zealand beetle species given legal protection under the Seventh Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953 (Anonymous 1980). The aims of this revision are to clarify the taxonomic status of *Amychus* species based on examination of types and other material, to redescribe the existing species and describe *A. manawatawhi* sp. nov. In addition, the larva and pupa of *A. candezei* and the larva *A. granulatus* are described for the first time. This study also briefly discusses the problem of subfamily and tribal placement of *Amychus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Material examined. *Amychus* specimens from the following collections were examined during this study: AMNZ: Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand; BMNH: The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom; CMNZ: Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand; CNCI: Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa, Canada; LUNZ: Entomology Research Museum, Lincoln University,