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## Checklist and type designations of New Zealand Aleocharinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

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### Abstract

A checklist of all identified species of the staphylinid subfamily Aleocharinae known to occur in New Zealand and associated outer islands (including the Kermadec, Chatham and Auckland Islands) is presented. Included for each species, and for synonyms known from New Zealand, is a reference to the original description, type locality and type depository, and for each species the known distribution within and outside New Zealand. Type material was sought and is summarized for all indigenous New Zealand species, with lectotypes designated for 55 names and confirmation of holotypes and prior designation of lectotypes when necessary. One nomenclatural change is implemented: the preoccupied generic name *Gyronotus* Cameron is replaced by *Marecon* Blackwelder. Other taxonomic changes are not made, pending further study and revision that is badly needed. Of the 169 currently known species of Aleocharinae reported from New Zealand, at least 26 are believed to be adventive from elsewhere, two may occur naturally elsewhere, and 141 (83%) are evidently endemic to this region. Of the 65 genera represented by these described species, 27 (42%) are also endemic to the New Zealand region; an additional five genera represented in New Zealand only by unidentified or undescribed species are also noted. Ten genera are adventive. However, the actual aleocharine fauna of New Zealand will undoubtedly be much larger, and the generic composition highly modified, when the fauna is fully explored and studied in a world context.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, New Zealand, types

### Introduction

The Staphylinidae, or rove beetles, is the largest family of living animals, with at least 61,550 described species worldwide after recent changes in classification that included adding the former families Scaphidiidae, Pselaphidae and Scydmaenidae as subfamilies (see, e.g., Thayer (2005) and Grebennikov & Newton (2009) for discussion). The subfamily Aleocharinae is the largest of the current rove beetle subfamilies, with at least 16,200 described species worldwide. The systematics of this subfamily are problematic, however, and the small size and obscure habits of many species have meant that the group is less well studied and understood than the other large rove beetle subfamilies. In New Zealand this has been a largely neglected group, so that the known fauna (169 described species) is probably only a small fraction of the actual diversity that is present (and is currently smaller than that of two other better-studied subfamilies, Pselaphinae and Scydmaeninae). At the generic level, the New Zealand fauna of Aleocharinae and other rove beetles was most recently summarized by Klimaszewski *et al.* (1996). At the species level, an online catalog with synonymies and other data is available in Newton & Thayer (2005b) and in simpler form as a downloadable checklist in Thayer & Newton (2005). More recently, simple lists of valid names for all New Zealand Coleoptera including Aleocharinae have been produced for genera (Leschen *et al.* 2003) and species (Maddison 2010). The classification of Aleocharinae used here differs slightly from those works due to incorporation of some changes to tribal and generic concepts resulting from recent phylogenetic work, e.g., by Pašník (2010), Elven *et al.* (2010; 2012) and Osswald *et al.* (2013).

Thomas Broun described most of the species of New Zealand Aleocharinae during the late 1800's and early 1900's, when he fervently worked to name most of the native beetle fauna as an obsessive pastime. The bulk of