

The rise and fall of Zealandia: biogeographic implications for entomology

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Zealandia parted company with the Australian portion of Gondwanaland over 80 mya. Zealandia was a relatively small continent size about half as large as present-day Australia. Presently, less than 10% of this landmass is above water with most of that in New Zealand and New Caledonia. In a much younger time frame the New Zealand landscape has been substantially remodelled by tectonics forces at the Pacific/Asustralia plate boundary. We will trace the fate of this continent and summarise the geological history for this area and the "sister" Australian region. We will consider the implications of changes in land area, topography and climate on interpretations about invertebrate biogeography.

