

An unexpected journey: The evolution and biogeography of New Zealand Idiopidae

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Eligible for student prize

The origins of most New Zealand lineages can be traced back to nearby continents, such as Australia. However, evidence suggests that a few lineages have been associated with New Zealand and its supercontinent, Zealandia, since the breakup of Gondwana. New Zealand's endemic trapdoor spider genus, *Cantuarina* (Idiopidae), is one such candidate for a history of Gondwanan vicariance. *Cantuarina* appears dispersal limited and surprisingly speciose. We set out to use dated phylogenies, phylogeographic analysis, and ecological data to infer the history of *Cantuarina* in New Zealand. Were *Cantuarina* in New Zealand since Zealandia split from Australia 80 million years ago, or did they more recently undertake an unexpected journey?

