

"Tidying up some loose ends....."

Dave Seldon *¹

¹ University of Auckland, School of Biological Sciences, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142

Eligible for student prize

Mecodema (Carabidae: Broscini: Nothobroscina) is a hyper-diverse endemic New Zealand genus with species spread throughout the two main islands, as well as many offshore islands. Using specimens from a number of private and institutional collections, plus new specimens acquired by extensive pitfall trapping, we describe / redescribe the North Island *Mecodema* species. Species descriptions were composed using 126 morphological characters, which include external structures, as well as both male and female internal structures. There are four new combinations: *Mecodema antarctica* (*Brullea*), *Mecodema aberrans*, *Mecodema moniliferum* and *Mecodema tibiale* (*Metaglymma*); we synonymise *M. occipitale* under *M. curvidens*, and *M. sulcatum* under *M. oblongum*. We describe 25 new species, 13 of which are found in Northland and Auckland regions, while six are described from Hawke's Bay / East Cape regions. This research increases the total number of described *Mecodema* species to 103, and will give a modern taxonomic framework to complete the revision of the South Island species.

