

Preliminary insights into the weevil fauna (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) of the Cook Islands

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The Cook Islands occupy an important geographic position in the South Pacific for evaluating biogeographic hypotheses. However, the insect fauna of this archipelago has received little attention, with only sporadic collections resulting in few publications. As part of an effort to document the weevil fauna of the islands, I visited four of the islands of the Southern group of the Cook Islands in March--May 2017: Rarotonga, Mitiaro, Atiu and Mangaia. Insects were primarily collected by beating and litter sampling, with other techniques such as pitfall traps and light sheets used sporadically. The collections obtained from this expedition have resulted in a total of 70 species of weevil. These were dominated by the Cossoninae, representing 21 species. Most species appear to have biogeographic connections with Tahiti or the Austral Islands, with little evidence for connections to Samoa or Niue.

