

A Note on the Occurrence of *Brullea antarctica* Castelnau (Coleoptera: Carabidae) at Otaki Beach

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Unusually large numbers of *Brullea antarctica* Cast. were observed in the sand dunes at Otaki Beach on April 26 and May 24, 1959. From a series of between 24 and 30 beetles found, only one was alive. A great proportion (about 50%) of the beetles found were either completely entangled with the web of a spider or else with the tarsi or entire legs emmeshed.

Five of the beetles observed were in perfect condition while the rest were decomposed and dislocated.

Also in close habitation with *Brullea antarctica* remains were large numbers of the Katipo spider, *Latrodectus hasseltii* Thorell*. Over a hundred specimens were observed within a space of two hours. Only two specimens of other spiders of different species were observed on May 24, and none other than Katipos on April 26.

Driftwood was placed in the dunes to provide cover for the beetles on April 26 as it was completely lacking previously and on re-investigation on May 24, four specimens, one alive, were taken beneath the cover provided. However, within several inches of the dead beetles found beneath the driftwood were one or more Katipo spiders, while none were under the driftwood with the live beetle.

Considerable numbers of this interesting and supposedly uncommon beetle must occur in this locality to survive the obviously heavy onslaught from the Katipo spiders.

* Parrott, A. W., 1948. *Rec. Canterbury (N.Z.) Mus.*, V (3): 161-165.