

A NEW COCCINELLID (COLEOPTERA) RECORD FOR NEW ZEALAND

A. H. NICHOLSON,
Department of Agriculture, Auckland.

A Coccinellid which was quite common in and around Auckland in March and April this year has been identified by Dr. E. B. Britton, of C.S.I.R.O. Canberra, as *Coelophora inaequalis* F., a species not previously recorded in New Zealand. This species is predaceous on aphids, and has been found here in association with several aphid species on different host plants.

Auckland area collections have been made at Cornwallis, Titi-rangi, Te Atatu, Sandringham and Mt. Albert. A previously unidentified specimen in the collection at Plant Diseases Division in Auckland is labelled Cornwallis, Auckland, 5 June 1966, B. M. May, and this appears to be the earliest record in New Zealand. The current abundance and distribution of the species indicates that it is now well established.

Collections this year have been made on roses (adults only, associated with *Macrosiphum rosae*), hibiscus (adults, larvae and pupae, associated with *Aphis gossypii*), citrus (adults and larvae, with *Aphis citricidus*), and maize (adults and larvae, with aphids, possibly *Rhopalosiphum padi*).

C. inaequalis is widely distributed in the Oriental and Australian regions and is widespread also in the Pacific Islands (Dale, 1959). It has been intercepted once in an aircraft arriving in New Zealand from Hawaii (Manson & Ward, 1968).

The adult ladybird has a ground colour varying from yellow to orange (occasionally red), with black markings. The head shows no black, but the thorax has a wide, irregular black band across the posterior margin. The elytra have a black band along the suture, this band broadening anteriorly and posteriorly. In some cases this band is reduced, leaving only the anterior and posterior spots. Four irregular spots on each elytron may remain separate, but usually coalesce to a greater or lesser extent to form a roughly cross-shaped pattern.

The larvae are greyish black, with orange and cream markings. The dorsal shields on the thorax are dark, surrounded by orange-yellow areas, usually distributed as in fig. 1A. A median marking on abdominal segment I is also orange. Light creamy-yellow strumae are distributed as follows: Lateral ones on thoracic segment III; dorso-lateral and lateral on abdominal segment I; dorsal, dorso-lateral and lateral on abdominal segment IV; laterals of

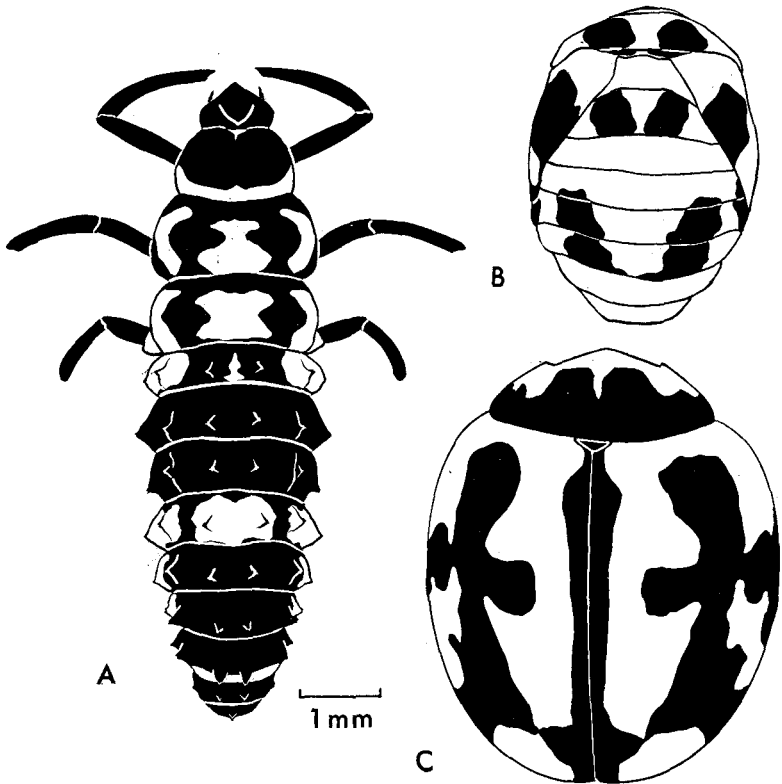


Fig. 1: *Coelophora inaequalis* F. A, larva; B, pupa; C, adult.

abdominal segments V and VI. Lateral strumae of abdominal segments VII and VIII may also be light in colour, and a posterior band of creamy-yellow occurs dorsally on segment VII.

The adult ladybird can be distinguished from other orange and black species common in New Zealand (Valentine 1967) by the pattern on each elytron of four spots merging into a cross. The larvae can be distinguished by the characteristic distribution of light strumae on the first four abdominal segments (Read, 1965).

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