

## The Cleridae of Lord Howe Island, with Descriptions of Two New Species (Coleoptera: Cleroidea)

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**ABSTRACT.** *Thriocerodes decussates* n.sp. and *Tarsostenodes howensis* n.sp. are described from Lord Howe Island off eastern Australia. A key to all species known from the island is provided and brief summary information for three previously described species is given. The clerid fauna of Lord Howe Island consists of three endemic species, one of which is presumed extinct, and two species introduced from eastern Australia.

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The beetle family Cleridae is comprised of approximately 4000 mostly predatory species assigned to just over 300 genera (based on Gerstmeier 2000). Lord Howe Island is an isolated oceanic island of volcanic origin located approximately 700 kilometers northeast of Sydney, Australia (31°30'S 159°04'E) (Environment Australia 2002). At present only one clerid species, the flightless *Cormodes darwini* Pascoe, has been described from Lord Howe Island, though it has not been collected for almost 100 years and is now presumed extinct (DECC 2007).

Surveys of Lord Howe Island by Australian Museum staff during the years 2000 and 2001 have produced the most comprehensive sample of Cleridae from the island to date. Identified from this material are two Australian species, *Lemidia subaenea* Gorham and *Thriocerodes bipartitus* Pic, apparently introduced to the island by human activity, and two undescribed, presumably endemic, species belonging to the genera *Thriocerodes* Wolcott & Dybas and *Tarsostenodes* Blackburn (the former genus, widely distributed throughout Australia, was hitherto represented by five species, the latter, known from Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, by seven species). No specimens of *C. darwini* were among the recently collected material.

In this paper *Thriocerodes decussates* n.sp. and *Tarsostenodes howensis* n.sp. are described and illustrated, and a dichotomous key to all five species presented. Additionally, brief details are given for *C. darwini*, *L. subaenea* and *T. bipartitus*, including a list of repositories holding Lord Howe collected specimens for each taxon.

### Materials and methods

Adult beetles were studied and measured using a Nikon SMZ1500 stereo dissecting microscope fitted with a scale reticule. Total length is the distance from the distal limit of the clypeus to the elytral apices. Elytral and pronotal length to width ratios were calculated from measurements made of the longest and broadest extremities of those body parts. Terminology used herein follows Lawrence and Britton (1994) and Ekis (1977). Antennomere is abbreviated to "A". Habitus images of adults were constructed, with the aid of Helicon Focus montage software, from photographs taken through a Nikon SMZ1500 stereo dissecting microscope fitted with a Prior Proscan II stepping-motor and a Nikon DS U2/DS-Fi1 digital image capture system.