



**T**HE COMMON GECKO is one of the most widespread and abundant lizards in New Zealand, thriving on the North, South and Stewart Islands and on many offshore islands. It is a small (total length up to 155 mm), nocturnal lizard that climbs trees and occasionally gets eaten by tuatara. Like many lizards, it can drop its tail when in danger. However, the replacement tail is stiffened by cartilage, not bone, and it never appears quite the same as the original. Common geckos belong to the genus *Hoplodactylus* (*hoplon*, tool; *dactylus*, digit), all eight species of which are endemic to New Zealand. The specific name *maculatus* means "speckled".



**T**HIS CURIOUS, NOCTURNAL WEEVIL is endemic to Stephens Island. Only about three specimens of this species, *Anagotis stephenensis*, have been reported in the last 16 years. The adult (shown here) is about 25 mm long and feeds on ngaio leaves, but the larvae have never been found. Two other weevils of this genus are also present on Stephens Island: *A. fairburni* (found on flax) and *A. rugosus* (found on coprosma). Large weevils are abundant only on islands where rats are absent.