3. Results

3.1 Field Identification

*O. inaequalis* can be separated from its sister species *O. aereus* with relative ease in the field using a simple 10× magnification hand lens. There are six key characters that in combination provide accurate field identification.

1. The initial assessment should look at the general shape and size of the beetle. *O. inaequalis* is shorter, and broader, with a significantly more prominent elytral shoulder (Fig. 1). This particular character is significant, and in combination with character (2) is often sufficient to identify *O. inaequalis*.

2. The striae on the elytra of *O. inaequalis* are more prominent and deeply impressed. Though difficult to illustrate in a photograph, e.g. Fig. 1, it is obvious on specimens.

3. The antennae of *O. inaequalis* are almost moniliform (bead-like), whereas in *O. aereus* they are more filiform (elongate). This gives *O. aereus* the appearance of much longer antennae. For a comparison between the two species, see Figs 2 and 3.

4. *O. inaequalis* has a row (6–8) of small spines that extend from the outer, anterior tip of the fore-tibia to the base of the antennal cleaning comb (Fig. 5). In coastal Otago *O. aereus* there are significantly fewer fore-tibial spines (Fig. 4). However, this character is quite variable and should not be used on its own to make a positive identification.

5. Both *O. inaequalis* and *O. aereus* have two pairs of setae above the eyes (supraorbital setae), but the number of pairs of setae located transversely across the vertex differs between the two species (*O. inaequalis* 3–4, whereas *O. aereus* normally has 1–2), see Figs 6 and 7 for a comparison.

Figure 1. *Oregus aereus* on the left and *O. inaequalis* on the right.
6. The tarsal segments of the fore-tibia in *O. inaequalis* are noticeably shorter than in *O. aereus* (see Figs 4 and 5 for a comparison). A similar difference is also present in the tarsal segments of the hind-tibia, see Fig. 1.

### 3.2 HISTORIC AND CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

The historical distribution of *O. inaequalis* (Appendix 2), is based on the personal examination of specimens known and available from national and international collections (a total of 56 individuals, Appendix 1). A similar inventory by Jamieson (1999) included a number of specimens that on re-
Appendix 2. Past distribution, 
*Oregus inaequalis*
Appendix 3. Current distribution, *Oregus inaequalis*