

Beetles

a short collection of poetry

completed in one evening

by @ignifluous

to fulfil the requirements of a

Terrible Poetry Challenge.

Poems

- Beetles: a Primer
- Lunch
- Dive
- *Prodontria lewisi*

The author, finding himself challenged to write beetle poetry and yet knowing very little of these varied creatures, has used Te Ara: the Encyclopedia of New Zealand as reference material.

Beetles: a Primer

Three hundred.

Three hundred and fifty

thousand! And apparently

there could be that more many

again we haven't seen.

Elytra are a

defined characteristic -

armoured hard forewings serve to protect -

allowing their habitat, where more delicate

insects might face damage or attack.

Eggs are laid,

each hatch into a larva

passing through various stages called instars

then eventually a metamorphosing pupa,

and thus emerge adult.

(cycle restarts)

Lunch

“A lazy midday ambulation
(or more precisely undulation)

in search of something new to munch
(was that nearby a muffled crunch?)

a leaf, perhaps, or nibbled root
or tasty fungus snack - oh shoot!

could someone tell my why I’m flying?”

“Hush,” blinked Tuatara, “can’t you see I’m dining?”

Dive

There are in fact just
sixteen native diving
beetles, and they trap
within their wings
the oxygen they need

to ply their predatory
trade beneath a pond's
deceptive waves where
their paddled-foot aplomb
serves rather well.

Prodontria lewisi

All that holds back
a suffocating end, and
tidy bureaucratic recategorisation, is
81 little squares, somewhere
in Central Otago, partitioned
100 metres on each side.

John Marris. 'Beetles - Beetles and humans',
Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 13-Jul-12
URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/beetles/page-5>