

Kauai Flightless Stag Beetle

Apterocyclus honoluluensis

Coleoptera: Lucanidae

The Kauai Flightless Stag Beetle is endemic to the island of Kauai and is restricted to high elevation native forests. This is the only species of Lucanidae in the Hawaiian islands. It may seem strange that the name of the city of Honolulu appears in the specific epithet of the scientific name. This beetle was named in 1871 at the British Natural History Museum from a specimen that was mailed in a package postmarked "Honolulu". The geographic restriction to the island of Kauai was not realized until later. The elytra (wing covers) are fused at the midline and never open to allow flight. Some fused elytra that have been sifted out from the soil can be seen in the bottom left photograph. The membranous wings underneath are extremely reduced, nearly non-existent in some specimens.



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