

# Notes on insects from the Kauaeranga Valley, Coromandel Peninsula

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## Abstract

A list of insects collected from the Kauaeranga Valley, Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand, is presented with notes about each species.

## INTRODUCTION

This paper lists the insects collected by members of the Auckland Section, Entomological Society of N.Z. during their field trip to the Kauaeranga Valley between 9-11 September 1977. The Kauaeranga Valley (175°40'E, 37°05'S) extends eastwards into the Coromandel Ranges from Thames. Specimens were collected at: the road end of Kauaeranga Valley Road, along the Billy Goat track, and along the Webb Creek track from the Kauaeranga Valley Road to the Dancing Camp Hut.

All the species listed below are lodged in the N.Z. Arthropod Collection held at Entomology Division, DSIR, Auckland.

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## INSECTS COLLECTED

## BLATTODEA

## Blattidae

*Celatoblatta undulivitta* (Walker). Found under a rotten log at Dancing Camp. This species has a distribution covering almost the entire North Island, and is often found under sodden kauri (*Agathis australis* Salisb.) and totara (*Podocarpus totara* G. Benn. ex D. Don) logs.

## HEMIPTERA

## Cixiidae (det. L. L. Deitz)

*Aka* sp., possibly undescribed. The genus *Aka* includes 2 described endemic species. However, little work has been done on the N.Z. cixiids since 1924, and several species remain unnamed.

## Pseudococcidae (det. J. M. Cox)

*Rhizococcus puhiensis* Hambleton. Found in a rotten log at Dancing Camp. This species is usually found in the soil where they feed on the roots of grasses.

*Chorizococcus arecae* (Maskell). Found in soil under toetoe.

*Chorizococcus miro* de Boer. Found in soil under Cyperaceae. Both *Chorizococcus* species are native to N.Z., and have been recorded feeding on the roots of a wide variety of plants.

## Aradidae

*Aneurus browni* F. B. White. These flat mycetophagous bugs are widely distributed in N.Z.

## COLEOPTERA (det. J. C. Watt)

## Carabidae

*Ctenognathus actochares* Broun. This is a general predator. It was found in a spider's web. A new record for the area.

*Ctenognathus lucifugus* Broun. Found at Dancing Camp under a stone.

## Scarabaeidae

*Odontria magna* Given. This is the most northern record of this species which is common on the volcanic plateau. It is a forest-inhabiting species and tends to fly during wet weather. The specimen collected had been attacked by fungi, *Cordyceps* spp.

## Tenebrionidae

*Artystona wakefieldi* Bates. Found under manuka. A less common species than *A. erichsoni*. Species of this genus feed on lichens.

*Uloma tenebrioides* White. Found at the base of a Japanese lilac and under logs in Kauaeranga Valley and Webb Creek.

## Chrysomelidae

*Adoxia vulgaris* Broun. Beaten from *Blechnum capense* (L.) Schlecht. Adults feed on leaves of rangiora.

## Anthicidae

*Anthicus hesperi* (King). Beaten from *Freycinetia banksii* A. Cunn. in the Kauaeranga Valley. This is an introduced species, and probably feeds on detritus.

## DIPTERA

## Simuliidae

*Austrosimulium australense* (Schiner) (det. T. K. Crosby). Collected while biting a human thigh.

## Anisopodidae (det. B. A. Holloway)

*Sylvicola neozelandicus* (Schiner). Collected at Dancing Camp on *Gahnia* sp. This family is considered to be very primitive. The larvae feed on rotting vegetable material and are found in the bush. An Australian species has established in N.Z. and is common around compost bins. The adult is sometimes seen on flowers in the garden.

## Sciomyzidae

*Helosciomyza femorata* Tonnoir & Malloch (det. J. Barnes). This genus is a primitive offshoot of the Sciomyzidae. The species is only found in northern N.Z. Its life history is not known, but one other species in the genus feeds on dead insects and preys on ant larvae.

## Helomyzidae

*Allophylina albitarsis* Tonnoir & Malloch (det. B. A. Holloway). Collected from Kauaeranga Valley. It is an endemic species and genus, and occurs throughout N.Z.

## Ephydriidae

*Hydrellia tritici* Coquillett (det. B. A. Holloway). Collected in Kauaeranga Valley. This Australian species is common in grasslands. The larva is a leafminer.

## LEPIDOPTERA (det. J. S. Dugdale)

## Nymphalidae

*Bassaris gonerilla* (Fabricius) (red admiral). The caterpillar feeds on native nettles, enclosing itself within the leaves. The butterfly hibernates until spring and then is active until late autumn.

## Geometridae

*Declana leptomera* (Walker). The caterpillar is polyphagous, and its hosts include native and introduced trees and shrubs. The light-green eggs are laid on twigs; the caterpillar grows to about 5 cm in length. It pupates among the debris at the base of the food plant.

*Pseudocoremia suavis* (Butler). The caterpillar is polyphagous on dicotyledons (angiosperms and conifers), but is never found on monocotyledons. It is common on exotic conifers. The eggs are laid on the host twigs, or on pines between the needles. The caterpillars feed on the foliage. The prepupal stage spins down from the tree and pupates in the litter layer.

*Cryptaspasma querula* (Meyrick). The caterpillar eats the endosperm of fruits such as tawa (*Beilschmieda tawa* (A. Cunn.) Benth. et Hook. f. ex Kirk), taraire (*B. tarairi* (A. Cunn.) Benth. et Hook. f. ex Kirk), and even miro (*Podocarpus ferrugineus* G. Benn. ex D. (Don)). *C. querula* has close relatives in Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji, Indonesia, and Japan.

HYMENOPTERA (det. A. W. Don)

Formicidae

*Mesoponera castanea*. Found under a stone at Dancing Camp. This is a typical habitat for this species, which also lives under rotten logs on the forest floor and under stones in pastures and household gar-

dens. It preys on small arthropods and anaesthetises them with its sting. It is widespread in the North Island and north of the South Island.

*Chelaner antarcticus* (White). Found under a stone by manuka. This species also lives in rotten logs in a variety of habitats. Found throughout N.Z.

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