

New and most northern records of Hawkes Bay tree weta (*Hemideina trewicki* Morgan-Richards) (Orthoptera: Anostostomatidae)

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The Hawkes Bay tree weta (*Hemideina trewicki*) was described by Morgan-Richards (1995) as a distinct species, sympatric with the Auckland tree weta (*H. thoracica*). During the last six years (1996-2002), members of the Boundary Stream Mainland Island Project (BSMIP) team have found over 30 Hawkes Bay tree weta within the upper forested slopes of the Maungaharuru range; Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve (south-eastern side of the range: 176°48'E, 39°06'S) from *ca* 770 m asl, and Cashes Bush Scenic Reserve (north-western side of the range: 176°43'E, 39°07'S) 740 - 880 m asl. These records extend the known distribution of *H. trewicki* from its previous most northern record, *ca* 32 km north of Blowhard Bush (176°25'E, 39°25'S) at the edge of the Kaweka Forest (Trewick & Morgan-Richards 1995).

The Hawkes Bay tree weta were found in a number of different habitats, including kamahi, mixed broad-leaf, kanuka, and red beech forests. The altitudinal range over which the Hawkes Bay tree weta were found represents the upper extent of single-cavity weta roosts placed in the reserves for the BSMIP tree weta monitoring programme (Christensen 2001). No living Hawkes Bay tree weta were found in lower altitude monitoring lines or the main part of the Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve (176°49'E, 39°06'S) from *ca* 350 - 720 m asl, where the reserve is bisected by the Pohokura road. Thomas Bush Scenic Reserve (176°50'E, 39°08'S) from 620 - 640 m asl was also monitored, with no Hawkes Bay weta found during the first five years of the monitoring programme.

The BSMIP species records show a similar distribution of Hawkes Bay tree weta locations, with two found in the upper areas of the Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve, and three found in Cashes Bush Scenic Reserve. Only one Hawkes Bay tree weta was found in the main part of the Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve, and this was found dead on the walking track. The total number of Hawkes Bay tree weta found in the annual summer monitoring is shown in Table 1.

The populations of Hawkes Bay tree weta surveyed appeared quite stable, and the Boundary Stream population may well be increasing due to an intensive pest management programme.

Table 1. Number of *Hemideina trewicki* found in the Maungaharuru range.

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02
Boundary Stream	4	1	0	6	6
Cashes Bush	0	0	0	3	3

With Hawkes Bay tree weta populations now recorded on the Maungaharuru range, it is possible that additional populations may occur in more northerly locations such as the Ahimanawa Range (176°30'E, 39°03'S), the forests at Tatarakina (176°39'E, 39°02'S), or the lower Whirinaki (176°42'E, 38°58'S).

References

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