

# The conservation status of invertebrates in Canterbury

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# 1. Introduction

New Zealand has a very rich terrestrial invertebrate fauna. Watt (1975) estimated there were 9460 described species of insects, which does not include the gastropods and several highly diverse arthropod groups. Current estimates suggest a total insect fauna in New Zealand of between 17 500 and 20 400 species, but probably at least 20 000 species (Emberson 1998). In comparison with other groups, such as plants (2046 indigenous species ((Landcare Herbarium, 1998 cited in Emberson, in press)) the New Zealand insect fauna clearly accounts for the bulk of New Zealand's macroscopic biodiversity. Species level endemism is very high; Lepidoptera 94%, Orthoptera 95%, Coleoptera 96%, Plecoptera, Trichoptera and Ephemeroptera 100%. New Zealand also has several endemic families and many endemic genera (Watt 1975).

The threats faced by invertebrates can, in general, be placed in four broad categories (New 1995);

- (1)The effect of habitat destruction/modification including habitat fragmentation.
- (2)Effects of pollution and pesticides (not currently known to be of major importance in New Zealand).
- (3)The effect of exotic species, particularly predation by introduced terrestrial mammals and social insects.
- (4)Effects of over-exploitation and over-collection, also not known to be of major importance in New Zealand.

The reduction and alteration of many plant communities has led to the decline of host plant availability. This, combined with a suite of introduced predators, has led to many invertebrate species being unable to cope with the radical changes since human settlement. As such, there are many species of invertebrates requiring assistance for survival. There are two main approaches to invertebrate conservation. The species approach, where individual taxa are identified as requiring conservation management, and the habitat approach. Public appeal is often the major factor that determines which species receive attention (New 1995). There is, however, a global trend to overlook invertebrate species when deciding which specific taxa to conserve. New Zealand is no exception, and apart from a few 'flagship' taxa (e.g. weta and land snails), little attention has been focused on our invertebrate fauna. Historically, the habitat approach has also been used to protect the habitat of some threatened taxa, often high-profile bird species (e.g. kokako). Invertebrates and plants have also benefited from the predator control and habitat rehabilitation that goes with their habitat management.

Conservation of flora and fauna in New Zealand, most commonly, has been undertaken using a single-species model, based on 17 criteria outlined by Molloy & Davies (1992). There has recently been a shift to a more ecosystem-based approach using "mainland" islands.

Unfortunately the criteria used by Molloy and Davies (Molloy & Davies 1992) are inadequate for assessing invertebrate conservation requirements and are in need of review. When setting priorities for conservation it is all too easy to assume that there are few threatened invertebrates. This assumption arises mainly from the lack of available information. McKinney (1999) in a global study concluded that understudied classes, such as insects, have an equal, if not greater, number of threatened species than intensely studied groups, such as birds. This conclusion seems to be equally pertinent in New Zealand.

This report uses a species-based approach to identify invertebrates that are threatened/endangered, and, in some cases, needing short- or long-term management to ensure their survival.

The aims of this project were to:

- Collate available information on threatened invertebrates in Canterbury (including that from Molloy & Davies (1992) and Patrick & Dugdale (2000))
- Raise awareness of groups of invertebrates previously not considered and provide a revised list of species considered to be threatened.
- Provide some measure of the conservation status of these threatened species and thus set priorities for action.
- Provide location, biology, taxonomic and ecological information, where available, and highlight areas where further research is necessary.

Unfortunately some groups, for example nematodes and terrestrial gastropods, have been excluded due to resource constraints, or a complete lack of information when compiling the list.

## 2. Format of this report

The list was compiled after an extensive review of available entomological literature. Entomologists in New Zealand, and in some cases from Australia, were consulted regarding their areas of speciality. Five categories of rarity were established using the following criteria and currently available information:

Category A: Species thought to be most endangered and threatened with extinction in the short-term. Most are only known from one, or a very few, isolated populations.

Category B: Species apparently threatened to a lesser extent, extinction possible in the longer term. Less threatened than category A species, but still of concern.

Category I: Species where insufficient information was available from literature, entomologists and collections to make an informed decision regarding their conservation status.

Category L: Species locally threatened, but with substantial populations outside the Canterbury Conservancy.

Category X: Species that have not been seen in over 50 years, and are presumed to be extinct.

### 3. Results

It appears that the number of threatened species included in Molloy & Davies (1994) was a significant underestimate of threatened invertebrate species in Canterbury.

Tables 1-5 list the species included in the five categories (A, B, I, L and X).

Note that some species have been assigned tagged names, i.e. names given in double quotation marks. As such they are undescribed species and the names used are hereby disclaimed (Article 8.3, International Code of Zoological Nomenclature 1999) and are thus not available (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999). Some names may be used in forthcoming formal descriptions.

In total there are 154 species listed in Tables 1-5.

There is a predominance of Lepidoptera in categories A and B, which is partially a reflection of a greater understanding and targeted research on this order. Diptera, Hymenoptera and most of the minor orders are represented more frequently in category I, which is consistent with the paucity of information available for these groups.

It is interesting to note that 70 % of category A species are thought to be endemic to the Canterbury Conservancy. Canterbury endemics, based on current knowledge, are indicated with an asterisk in Tables 1-5.

Table 1. List of category A species

<i>Acroclita discariana</i> Philpott *	<i>Kupea electilis</i> Philpott *
<i>Aphis cottieri</i> Carver	<i>Lyperobius carinatus</i> Broun *
<i>Asaphodes stinaria</i> (Guenée)	<i>Orocrambus</i> "Mackenzie Basin" *
<i>Brachaspis robustus</i> Bigelow *	<i>Orocrambus fugitivellus</i> Hudson *
' <i>Epichorista</i> ' <i>lindsayi</i> Philpott *	<i>Orocrambus sophronellus</i> Meyrick *
<i>Eurythecta robusta</i> Butler *	<i>Orthoclydon pseudostinaria</i> (Hudson)
<i>Euxoa cerapachoides</i> Guenée *	<i>Paradoxaphis</i> n.sp. *
<i>Gadira petraula</i> Meyrick *	<i>Periegops suterii</i> Urquhart *
<i>Helastia clandestina</i> Philpott	<i>Pseudocoremia</i> n.sp. "Knobby"
<i>Helastia expolita</i> Philpott *	<i>Scythris</i> sp. "stripe" *
<i>Heterocrossa maculosa</i> Philpott *	<i>Stethaspis convexa</i> (Given) *
<i>Holcaspis brevicula</i> Butcher *	<i>Xanthorhoe bulbulata</i> Guenée
<i>Kiwaia</i> "plains jumper" *	<i>Xanthorhoe lophogramma</i> Meyrick
<i>Kiwaia pumila</i> Philpott	

Table 2. List of category B species

<i>Asaphodes obarata</i> (Felder & Rogenhofer)	<i>Mecodema brittoni</i> (Townsend)*
<i>Bityla sericea</i> Butler	<i>Mecodema howiiti</i> Castlenau *
<i>Circoxena ditrocha</i> Meyrick	<i>Meterana exquisita</i> Philpott
<i>Crystallophora fuscus</i> (Maskell)	<i>Notoreas</i> "Cape Campbell"
<i>Dasyuris enysii</i> Butler	<i>Odontria subnitida</i> Given *
<i>Deinacrida elegans</i> Gibbs	<i>Ooperipatellus viridimaculatus</i> Dendy
<i>Deinacrida pluvialis</i> Gibbs *	<i>Orocrambus sophistes</i> Meyrick
<i>Elachista helonoma</i> Meyrick *	<i>Peripatoides novaezealandiae</i> (Hutton)
<i>Ericodesma aerodana</i> Meyrick	<i>Pseudocoremia cineracia</i> Howes
<i>Glyphipterix euastera</i> Meyrick	<i>Pyrgotis</i> sp. "olearia"
<i>Hemianthus ricta</i> Hutton	<i>Samana acutata</i> Butler
<i>Kiwaia jeanae</i> Philpott *	<i>Xanthocnemis sinclairi</i> *
<i>Maoricrambus oncobolus</i> Meyrick	<i>Zealandobius wardi</i> McLellan *
<i>Mecodema allani</i> Fairburn	<i>Zelleria sphenota</i> Meyrick

Table 3. List of category I species

Species of highest priority	<i>Crisius baccatellus</i> (Broun)
<i>Aphis healyi</i> Cottier	<i>Crisius fulvicornis</i> (Broun)
<i>Aphis nelsonensis</i> Cottier	<i>Crisius variellus</i> (Broun)
<i>Novothybris pollux</i> Knight	<i>Crisius obscurus</i> (Broun)
<i>Odontria regalis</i> Given	<i>Declana griseata</i> Hudson
<i>Orocrambus lindsayi</i> Gaskin	<i>Discobola dicycla</i> Edwards
<i>Priesneriella gnomus</i> Mound and Palmer	<i>Ectinorhynchus furcatus</i> Lyneborg
<i>Psilochorema folioharpax</i> McFarlane	<i>Eodrillus annectens</i> Beddard
<i>Theoxena scissaria</i> (Guenée)	<i>Eodrillus montanus</i> Lee
<i>Xanthorhoe firigida</i> Howes	<i>Eodrillus paludosus</i> Beddard
<i>Zealandobius jacksoni</i> McLellan	<i>Eriococcus detectus</i> Hoy
	<i>Eriococcus kowhai</i> Hoy
<i>Anabarhynchus albipennis</i> Lyneborg *	<i>Eriococcus montifagi</i> Hoy
<i>Anabarhynchus atratus</i> Lyneborg *	<i>Gadira</i> "black-brown"
<i>Anabarhynchus embersoni</i> Lyneborg *	<i>Gynoplistia canterburiana</i> Edwards
<i>Anabarhynchus indistinctus</i> Lyneborg *	<i>Gynoplistia speighti</i> Edwards
<i>Anabarhynchus olivaceus</i> Lyneborg *	<i>Helastia angusta</i> Craw
<i>Anabarhynchus simplex</i> Lyneborg *	<i>Holcaspis odontella</i> (Broun)
<i>Aphenochiton chionochloae</i> Henderson and Hodgson *	<i>Izatha psychra</i> Meyrick
<i>Aphenochiton inconspicua</i> (Maskell)	<i>Kalasisis paradepressa</i> Henderson & Hodgson
<i>Archyala lindsayi</i> (Philpott)	<i>Leioproctus</i> n.sp.
<i>Austragoniodes waterstoni</i> Cummings	<i>Maoridrilus dissimilis</i> Beddard
<i>Austrocidaria lithurga</i> (Meyrick)	<i>Maoridrilus modestus</i> Michaelsen
<i>Colobocerus alchymicus</i> Parent	<i>Maoridrilus parkeri</i> Beddard
<i>Crisius bicinctus</i> (Broun)	<i>Maoridrilus purusa</i> Ude

<i>Maoridrillus smithi</i> Beddard	<i>Plutellus parvus</i> Lee
<i>Maoridrillus suteri</i> Michaelsen	<i>Pollenia commensurata</i> Dear
<i>Maoridrillus wilkini</i> Lee	<i>Prodontria matagouriae</i> Emerson
<i>Megadromus</i> "omarama"	<i>Prodontria minuta</i> Emerson
<i>Megadromus antarcticus</i> subspecies 1 & 2	<i>Psilodontria viridescens</i> Broun
<i>Megadromus</i> n.sp.11	<i>Pyrgotis pyramidias</i> (Meyrick) [sensu stricto]
<i>Melanostoma apertum</i> Miller	<i>Rhododrilus minutus</i> Beddard
<i>Microcryptorhynchus albistrigalis</i> (Broun)	<i>Rhypodes brevopilis</i> Eyles
<i>Naufraga hexachaeta</i> Parent	<i>Samana acutata</i> Butler
<i>Neodrilus campestris</i> Hutton	<i>Stegococcus oleariae</i> Hoy
<i>Octochaetus antarcticus</i> Beddard	<i>Syntormon aotearoa</i> Bickel
<i>Octochaetus huttoni</i> Beddard	<i>Tatosoma agrionata</i> (Walker)
<i>Odontria aurantia</i> Given	<i>Thectophila acmotypa</i> Meyrick
<i>Orchymontia banksiana</i> Ordish	<i>Tiphobiosis childella</i> Ward
<i>Pantolytomyia polita</i> Naumann	<i>Tiphobiosis hinewai</i> Ward
<i>Paradorydium westwoodi</i> (Buchanan White)	<i>Trinodicalles altus</i> (Broun)
<i>Parentia nova</i> Parent	<i>Xylota montana</i> Miller
<i>Plagiochaeta sylvestris</i> Hutton	<i>Zeacalles estriatus</i> Broun
<i>Platycheirus atkinsoni</i> Miller	<i>Zeacalles igneus</i> (Broun)
<i>Plumichiton punctatus</i> Henderson & Hodgson	<i>Zealandobius peglegensis</i> McLellan
	<i>Zizina oxyleyi</i> (Felder & Felder)

Table four. List of category L species.

<i>Androporus discedens</i> Sharp
<i>Anthicus otagensis</i> Werner & Chandler
<i>Holloceratognathus cylindricus</i> (Broun)
<i>Lenax mirandus</i> Sharp
<i>Lyperobius huttoni</i> Pascoe
Hymenoptera, undescribed family
<i>Zeadelium gratiosum</i> (Broun)

Table 5. List of category X species.

<i>Euxoa cerapachoides</i> Guenée
<i>Hadramphus tuberculatus</i> Pascoe
<i>Megacolabus sculpturatus</i> Broun

## 4. Conclusions and recommendations

Management and/or research of all the species mentioned in this report is obviously not financially feasible in the short term. Immediate priority should be given to category A species. Seventy percent of these species are thought to be endemic to Canterbury, and therefore the Canterbury Conservancy has sole responsibility for the survival of these species. Extensive surveying is needed to locate extant populations. These populations should then be monitored using standard methodologies (Green 1996). Research is then needed to identify threats and recommend recovery strategies.

It is important not to forget the very large category I list and where possible research should be coordinated to include these species. Current species recovery programmes target only a limited number of our highly threatened species (DOC and MfE 2000). It is definitely better and fiscally more responsible to take a proactive approach to conservation. Spending a little money now to prevent further decline of a species may eliminate the need for intensive, expensive conservation management in the future. A short-term survey should also be initiated in an attempt to locate category X species again. If populations are located they should be reassigned to category A.

It is not intended that the reader should wade through the extensive amounts of information in Appendix A. Tables 1-5 are designed to raise awareness of which species require research and management. Appendix A should then be used as a resource providing information on a species-by-species basis. Some species have been placed at the top of the extensive category I species list. We consider these to be the most urgent category I species, because what little is known about them suggests very limited populations exist.

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# Appendix A

## Index to species in Appendix A

### A

<i>Acroclita</i> (s.l.) <i>discariana</i> Philpott	53
<i>Anabarhynchus albipennis</i> Lyneborg	39
<i>Anabarhynchus atratus</i> Lyneborg	39
<i>Anabarhynchus embersoni</i> Lyneborg	39
<i>Anabarhynchus indistinctus</i> Lyneborg	39
<i>Anabarhynchus olivaceus</i> Lyneborg	39
<i>Anabarhynchus simplex</i> Lyneborg	39
<i>Androporus discedens</i> Sharp	28
<i>Anthicus otagensis</i> Werner & Chandler	28
<i>Aphenochiton chionochloae</i> Henderson and Hodgson	27
<i>Aphenochiton inconspicua</i> (Maskell)	27
<i>Aphis cottieri</i> Carver	24
<i>Aphis cottieri</i> Cottier	24
<i>Aphis healyi</i> Cottier	24
<i>Aphis nelsonensis</i> Cottier	24
<i>Archyala lindsayi</i> (Philpott)	53
<i>Asaphodes obarata</i> (Felder & Rogenhofer)	46
<i>Asaphodes stinaria</i> (Guenee)	46
<i>Austragoniodes waterstoni</i> Cummings	24
<i>Austrocidaria lithurga</i> (Meyrick)	47
<b>B</b>	
<i>Bityla sericea</i> Butler	51
<i>Brachaspis robustus</i> Bigelow	22
<b>C</b>	
<i>Circoxena ditrocha</i> Meyrick	41
<i>Crisius baccatellus</i> (Broun)	31
<i>Crisius bicinctus</i> (Broun)	31
<i>Crisius fulvicornis</i> (Broun)	31
<i>Crisius obscurus</i> (Broun)	32
<i>Crisius variellus</i> (Broun)	32
<i>Crystallotesta fuscus</i> (Maskell)	27
<b>D</b>	
<i>Dasyuris enysii</i> Butler	47
<i>Declana griseata</i> Hudson	47
<i>Deinacrida elegans</i> Gibbs	21
<i>Deinacrida pluvialis</i> Gibbs	21
<i>Discobola dicycla</i> Edwards	40

### E

<i>Ectinorhynchus furcatus</i> Lyneborg	40
<i>Elachista helonoma</i> (Meyrick)	44
<i>Eodrilus annectens</i> Beddard	17
<i>Eodrilus montanus</i> Lee	17
<i>Eodrilus paludosus</i> Beddard	17
<i>Epichorista lindsayi</i> Philpott	53
<i>Ericodesma aerodana</i> Meyrick	54
<i>Eriococcus detectus</i> Hoy	26
<i>Eriococcus kowhai</i> Hoy	26
<i>Eriococcus montifagi</i> Hoy	26
<i>Eurythecta robusta</i> Butler	54
<i>Euxoa cerapachoides</i> Guenee	51

### G

<i>Gadira</i> "black brown EGW"	42
<i>Gadira petraula</i> (Meyrick)	42
<i>Glyphipterix euastera</i> Meyrick	45
<i>Gynoplistia canterburiana</i> and <i>Gynoplistia speighti</i> Edwards	40

### H

<i>Hadramphus tuberculatus</i> Pascoe	33
<i>Helastia angusta</i> Craw	48
<i>Helastia clandestina</i> (Philpott)	48
<i>Helastia expolita</i> (Philpott)	48
<i>Hemiandrus</i> "Timaru"	22
<i>Hemideina ricta</i> Hutton	22
<i>Heterocrossa maculosa</i> (Philpott)	41
<i>Holcaspis falcis</i> Butcher and <i>Holcaspis brevicula</i> Butcher	30
<i>Holcaspis odontella</i> (Broun)	30
<i>Holloceratognathus cylindricus</i> (Broun)	34

### I

<i>Izatha psychra</i> Meyrick	52
-------------------------------	----

### K

<i>Kalasisiris paradepressa</i> Henderson and Hodgson	27
<i>Kiwaia</i> "plains jumper"	45
<i>Kiwaia jeanae</i> Philpott	45
<i>Kiwaia pumila</i> (Philpott)	45
<i>Kupea electilis</i> Philpott	42
<b>L</b>	
<i>Leioproctus</i> n.sp	56
<i>Lenax mirandus</i> Sharp	35

<i>Lyperobius carinatus</i> Broun	33	<i>Paradorydium westwoodi</i> (Buchanan White)	25
<i>Lyperobius huttoni</i> Pascoe	33	<i>Paradoxaphis</i> undescribed species	25
<b>M</b>		<i>Parentia nova</i> Parent	37
<i>Maoricrambus oncobolus</i> (Meyrick)	43	<i>Periegops suterii</i> Urquhart	19
<i>Maoridrilus dissimilis</i> Beddard	18	<i>Peripatoides novaezealandiae</i> (Hutton)	19
<i>Maoridrilus modestus</i> Michaelsen	18	<i>Plagiochaeta sylvestris</i> Hutton	18
<i>Maoridrilus parkeri</i> Beddard	18	<i>Platycheirus atkinsoni</i> Miller	38
<i>Maoridrilus purusa</i> Ude	18	<i>Plumichiton punctatus</i> Henderson & Hodgson	26
<i>Maoridrilus smithi</i> Beddard	18	<i>Plutellus parvus</i> Lee	18
<i>Maoridrilus suteri</i> Michaelsen	18	<i>Pollenia commensurata</i> Dear	37
<i>Maoridrilus wilkini</i> Lee	18	<i>Priesneriella gnomus</i> Mound and Palmer	28
<i>Mecodema allani</i> Fairburn	29	<i>Prodontria matagouriae</i> Emerson	36
<i>Mecodema brittoni</i> Townsend	29	<i>Prodontria minuta</i> Emerson	36
<i>Mecodema howiiti</i> Castlenau	29	<i>Pseudocoremia cineracia</i> (Howes)	49
<i>Megacolabus sculpturatus</i> Broun	34	<i>Pseudocoremia</i> n.sp. "Knobby"	49
<i>Megadromus</i> "omarama"	30	<i>Psilochorema folioharpax</i> McFarlane	40
<i>Megadromus antarcticus</i> subspecies 1	31		
&2	31	<i>Psilodonthia viridescens</i> Broun	36
<i>Megadromus</i> n.sp.11	31	<i>Pyrgotis pyramidias</i> (Meyrick) [ <i>sensu stricto</i> ]	55
<i>Melanostoma apertum</i> Miller	38	<i>Pyrgotis</i> sp. "olearia"	55
<i>Meterana exquisita</i> Philpott	52	<b>R</b>	
<i>Microcryptorhynchus albistrigalis</i> (Broun)	32	<i>Rhododrilus minutus</i> Beddard	18
<b>N</b>		<i>Rhypodes brevipilis</i> Eyles	27
<i>Naufraga hexachaeta</i> (Parent)	37	<b>S</b>	
<i>Neodrilus campestris</i> Hutton	18	<i>Samana acutata</i> Butler	49
<i>Notoreas</i> 'Cape Campbell'	49	<i>Scythris</i> sp. "stripe"	52
<i>Novothybris pollux</i> Knight	25	<i>Stegococcus oleariae</i> Hoy	26
<b>O</b>		<i>Stethaspis convexa</i> Given	36
<i>Octochaetus antarcticus</i> Beddard	17	<i>Sympycnus</i> (s.l.) <i>alchymicus</i> Parent	38
<i>Octochaetus huttoni</i> Beddard	18	<i>Syntormon aotearoa</i> Bickel	38
<i>Odonthria aurantia</i> Given	35	<b>T</b>	
<i>Odonthria regalis</i> Given	35	<i>Tatosoma agrionata</i> (Walker)	49
<i>Odonthria subnitida</i> Given	35	<i>Thectophila acmotypa</i> Meyrick	41
<i>Ooperipatellus viridimaculatus</i> Dendy	19	<i>Theoxena scissaria</i> (Guenee)	50
<i>Orchymontia banksiana</i> Ordish	34	<i>Tiphobiosis childella</i> Ward	40
<i>Orocrambus</i> "Mackenzie Basin"	44	<i>Tiphobiosis hinewai</i> Ward	40
<i>Orocrambus fugitivellus</i> (Hudson)	43	<i>Trinodicalles altus</i> (Broun)	32
<i>Orocrambus lindsayi</i> Gaskin	44	<b>U</b>	
<i>Orocrambus sophistes</i> (Meyrick)	44	Undescribed Hymenopteran family	56
<i>Orocrambus sophronellus</i> (Meyrick)	44	<b>X</b>	
<i>Orthoclydon pseudostinaria</i> (Hudson)	48	<i>Xanthocnemis sinclairi</i> Rowe	20
<b>P</b>			
<i>Pantolytomyia polita</i> Naumann	56		

<i>Xanthorhoe bulbulata</i> Guenee	50	<i>Zeadelium gratiosum</i> (Broun)	37
<i>Xanthorhoe frigida</i> Howes	50	<i>Zealandobius jacksoni</i> McLellan	20
<i>Xanthorhoe lophogramma</i> Meyrick	50	<i>Zealandobius peglegensis</i> McLellan	20
<i>Xylota montana</i> Miller	38	<i>Zealandobius wardi</i> McLellan	20
Z		<i>Zelleria sphenota</i> Meyrick	55
<i>Zeacalles estriatus</i> Broun	32	<i>Zizina oxleyi</i> (Felder and Felder)	51
<i>Zeacalles igneus</i> (Broun)	32		

Continue to next file: casn320a.pdf