

# Cloudy Bay

*Kiwaia* sp. 'Cloudy Bay'

## Needing just a small part of a beach



Habitat of the Cloudy Bay jumper moth. Ian Millar

### Quickfacts

A moth only known from one location in Cloudy Bay, Marlborough

Inhabits *Raoulia* scabweed mats on the beach

## The narrow world of the Cloudy Bay mat daisy jumper moth

The Cloudy Bay jumper moth *Kiwaia* sp. 'Cloudy Bay' does not yet have a scientific name. It is only found on or near patches of *Raoulia* mat daisies (also sometimes known as scabweeds) growing on a narrow strip (20-30 m wide) of storm-deposited beach gravels at Rarangi in Cloudy Bay, Marlborough. Potential habitat along the Kaikoura coast, near Kekerengu, and south of the Wairau Diversion mouth has been searched without success. Its population size undergoes extreme fluctuations, sometimes to the point it cannot be found at all in some years. Indeed, after a drought in 2000 that killed off lots of *Raoulia* mats, the Cloudy Bay jumper moth couldn't be found, but the population is known to be recovering since then. It is never numerous: in April 2000, a survey counted only 30 Cloudy Bay jumper moths. There are at least 28 endemic species in the *Kiwaia* genus (Family: Gelechiidae) in New Zealand, several of which are endangered. It is known as a jumper moth from its habit of jumping rather than flying when disturbed.



## Cloudy Bay jumper moth conservation

In 2000 the Rarangi Landcare Group was formed and in 2007 they developed a 10 year management plan for the Rarangi beach area. This management plan identified the Cloudy Bay jumper moth as being in need of protection and the group have undertaken the removal of exotic plants, planting native species including the moth's *Raoulia* host plant, and education on responsible ownership of cats and dogs. The Cloudy Bay jumper moth also requires protection from 4WD vehicles being driven on the section of the beach it inhabits as the *Raoulia* mats are often killed by being driven over. There are several other endangered plants and insects in this area that are also benefitting from this conservation project.

## What next?

Continuing the good works of the Rarangi Landcare Group is essential for survival of this moth. It has been recommended that interpretative signs be improved with more information on threats and impacts, marram grass be controlled, fencing off and clearly marking of some vehicle tracks, and encouraging wider community participation. Monitoring of the adult moth population has also been recommended as necessary for seeing the effects of each year's vehicle usage on this moth.

## More information

Webpage: Department of Conservation: Rare Bits. [PDF](#)

News article: Access tracks protect rare moth. Marlborough Express, 24 April 2013. [Link](#)

Scientific paper: Invertebrate communities and drivers of their composition on gravel beaches in New Zealand. By Shaun Forgie, Mark St John & Susan Wiser. New Zealand Journal of Ecology Vol. 37(1), pages 95-104, 2013.

Scientific paper: The Conservation Status of New Zealand Lepidoptera. By Ian Stringer, Rod Hitchmough, John Dugdale, Eric Edwards, Robert Hoare & Brian Patrick. New Zealand Entomologist Vol. 35 (2), pages 120-127, 2012.

Scientific paper: Rarangi Coast Operation Plan: Monkey Bay Cliffs to Wairau River Mouth. 2009. Department of Conservation. [PDF](#)

Strategic document: Rarangi Landcare Group Beach Management Plan, December 2007. Rarangi Landcare Group Incorporated.

Scientific Paper: New Zealand Threat Classification Systems List 2005. By Rod Hitchmough, Leigh Bull and Pam Cromarty. Department of Conservation. [PDF](#)

Scientific paper: Conservation Status of the New Zealand Lepidoptera. By Brian Patrick and John Dugdale. Science for Conservation, 2000. Department of Conservation. [PDF](#)



Scientific paper: Rarangi foreshore and wetland/ridge entomological values. By John Dugdale. Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research NZ Ltd. 1999.

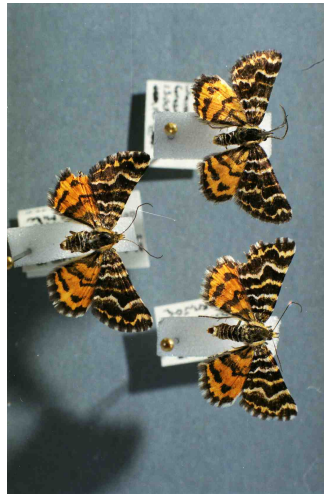
## Photos



Museum specimen of Cloudy Bay jumper moth.  
Ian Millar



Raoulia mat daisy plant, Cloudy Bay. Ian Millar



An unnamed species of Notoreas moth also  
inhabits Cloudy Bay. Ian Millar

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