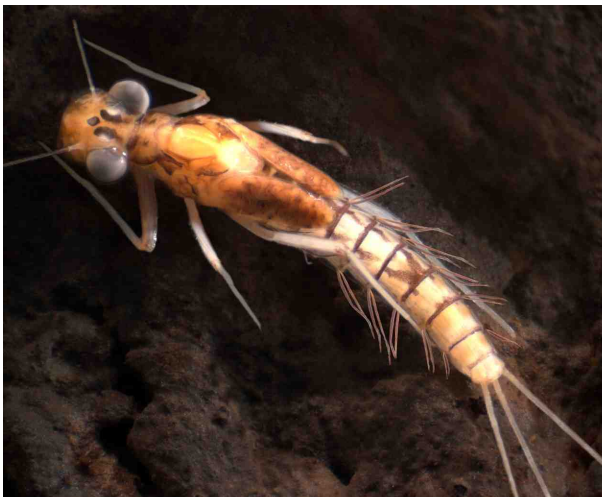


Kanapa karāroa

Aupouriella pohei Winterbourn, 2009

A little known mayfly



Aupouriella pohei nymph. Steven Moore

Quickfacts

Nationally Critical conservation status

Only known from one small stream in Northland

One stream home

Aupouriella pohei is a delicate dainty pale mayfly that is only known from one locality, Whiriwhiri Stream at North Cape. Its common name is kanapa karāroa, and was named by the landowner of the locality where the type specimen (the specimen that it is formally described from) is from. It's scientific name, *pohei*, is named after Stephen Pohe, who discovered the species. This location is outside the nearby North Cape Scientific Reserve, but its remoteness and lack of easy accessibility provides some protection for kanapa karāroa. It is an unusual mayfly in that the eyes of the adult male mayfly are not divided into a distinct upper and lower half as in the males of most mayfly species. It is thought that, because of this feature, this species does not perform mating swarms, instead males search for females along the stream under the forest canopy.

Despite a concentrated survey of mayflies from northern New Zealand in the 1970's and 80's, and by other workers subsequently collecting from other coastal streams in the far north of New Zealand, no other nymphs of kanapa karāroa have ever been found. There isn't much information known on kanapa karāroa's biology and



ecology, just what can be inferred from where its nymphs were collected, in mainly cobbles and gravels in a medium (3-4m wide) stream. In this stream a number of adult mayflies, subimagos and nymphs have been caught on a number of occasions and the species is thought to be secure here.

It belongs to the prong-gilled mayfly (Leptophlebiidae) family, and has a threat ranking of Nationally Critical, with the qualifier One Location.

What next for kanapa karāroa?

The threats to the survival of kanapa karāroa are:

1. Only being found at one site, that isn't formally protected.
2. Potential loss to its habitat because of random events (e.g. fire).

There is so much we do not know about kanapa karāroa, particularly about where it occurs. The one site it has been found to date is a small bush-clad stream on what used to be an isolated island during the last interglacial period. It is therefore likely this species is endemic to just North Cape. The rocks of areas of North Cape are serpentine and high in manganese and other elements that many plants struggle to grow in, and the serpentine rocks of the Surville Cliffs of North Cape are inhabited by several unique plant species found nowhere else. It is possible that this unusual chemistry influences the chemical character of the streams in this area and kanapa karāroa could be adapted to surviving these chemicals. Further survey of North Cape streams by an experienced aquatic entomologist is needed.

More information

Webpage: Wikispecies [Link](#)

Webpage: BOLD Systems [Link](#)

Webpage: NatureWatch [Link](#)

Scientific paper: Conservation Status of New Zealand Freshwater Invertebrates. By Natasha Grainger, Kevin Collier, Rod Hitchmough, Jon Harding, Brian Smith, & Darin Sutherland. New Zealand Threat Classification Series 8. Department of Conservation [PDF](#)

Scientific Paper: A revision of the distribution maps and database of New Zealand Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) at Canterbury Museum. By Terry Hitchings, Tim Hitchings & Matthew Shaw. Records of the Canterbury Museum Vol. 29 pages 5-34, 2015.

Conference Abstract: Kanapa Karaaroa – New Zealand's rarest mayfly [Link](#)

Scientific Paper: A new genus and species of Leptophlebiidae (Ephemeroptera) from northern New Zealand. By Michael Winterbourn. New Zealand Journal of Zoology Vol. 36, pages 423–430. 2009.



Photos

Photos of this species wanted. Send to
info@endangeredspecies.org.nz

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