

# *Edpercivalia smithi* (Ward, 2005)

## The Divide

Photos of this species wanted. Send to  
[info@endangeredspecies.org.nz](mailto:info@endangeredspecies.org.nz)

Coastal pepperpress. Simon Wallis, DOC

## Quickfacts

A caddisfly only known from one location at The Divide in Fiordland.

Inhabits freshwater seeps.

Of uncertain taxonomic status and may be a member of a widespread species that is variable in appearance.

Only one adult male has ever been seen

## Of uncertain status

*Edpercivalia smithi* is only known from the vicinity Divide Creek, a small, rapid stream that drains into the Hollyford River in Fiordland, where it was collected in 2004. It is likely to have very particular habitat requirements, but these are likely to be present in other Fiordland streams and is thought to inhabit freshwater seepages. It has a threat ranking of Nationally Critical, with the qualifier One Location.

*Edpercivalia smithi* is one of 16 members of the *Edpercivalia* genus (Family: Hydrobiosidae) of aquatic caddisflies (Trichoptera), all of which are endemic to New Zealand. There is some doubt concerning the taxonomic validity of this species and there is a possibility it is instead a member of a more widespread species. The larvae of *Edpercivalia* don't construct a protective case and are called "free-living" caddis. They are predators and feed on other stream invertebrates, and have pincers on their forelegs. They are found in good quality cold waters of rivers, streams and seepages. The Hydrobiosidae family is found throughout Gondwana and is a major component of the caddisfly fauna in New Zealand.



## What next?

There is a high possibility that *Edpercivalia smithi* is present in other Fiordland stream seepages, however, searching for this species is difficult as it is not easy to identify *Edpercivalia smithi* without close examination of its hindparts using a microscope. It is hoped that publicising the existence of this species may lead to it being found at other sites and allow better comparison of it with other *Edpercivalia* species.

## More information

Webpage: Wikipedia. [Link](#)

Webpage: New Zealand Trichoptera Database. [Link](#)

Webpage: Landcare Research Freshwater Invertebrates. [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: Four new species of caddis in the endemic New Zealand genus *Edpercivalia* (Insecta: Trichoptera: Hydrobiosidae). By John Ward. Records of the Canterbury Museum, 19: 61-70. 2005.

**This webpage represents the views of the Endangered Species Foundation of New Zealand and not necessarily those of other individuals or organisations involved in the conservation of this species.**

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