



## Two new species of *Hemiandrus* (Orthoptera: Anostostomatidae) from Fiordland National Park, New Zealand

TONY JEWELL

657 Alice Lane, RD1, Ranfurly, New Zealand  
Email: rattusjewelli@hotmail.com

### Abstract

Two new species of *Hemiandrus* are described from alpine habitat in the Sinbad Gully of Fiordland National Park, New Zealand. *H. superba* n. sp. is the largest known member of the genus, and *H. nitaweta* n. sp. is perhaps the most brilliantly colored. Fiordland is a major centre of diversity for *Hemiandrus*; a photographic overview and key to the species recorded from the Park are provided.

**Key words** Anostostomatidae; *Hemiandrus*; ground weta; new species; Sinbad Gully; Fiordland; New Zealand

### Introduction

The New Zealand *Hemiandrus* (“ground weta”) are medium-sized (12–45mm), flightless orthopteroid insects belonging to the family Anostostomatidae (king crickets). All species are nocturnal and spend the day within a burrow beneath ground level or under debris. Secretive and silent, they are easily overlooked despite being common in forests, scrublands, grasslands and gardens. *Hemiandrus* are found throughout New Zealand and several species are also known from Australia (Johns, 2001).

Until recently, the “ground weta” were separated into two genera, i.e. *Hemiandrus* Ander and *Zealandrosandrus* Salmon, distinguished chiefly by the length of the ovipositor (Salmon, 1950; Meads, 1990). However, Johns (1997) placed all species together in *Hemiandrus*, citing new taxa that bridge the morphological dichotomy between the two apparent groupings. Johns (2001) lists 7 valid species and a further 28 undescribed, providing detailed morphological information and discussing conservation status.

Fiordland National Park, situated in the south-west corner of New Zealand’s South Island (Figure 1), is an expanse of glacial-carved mountains, each clothed with rainforest up to about 800–1000m above sea level (a.s.l.), giving way to an altitudinal sequence of scrublands, grasslands/herbfields, open stony/rocky habitat, and on the tallest peaks permanent snow/ice. Four species of *Hemiandrus* have previously been recorded from the Park: *H. fiordensis* (Salmon); *H. focalis* (Hutton); *H. maculifrons* (Walker); and *H. sp.* “*madisylvestris*” (Johns, 2001). This paper adds *H. superba* Jewell n. sp. and *H. nitaweta* Jewell n. sp., while a further two species, here referred to as *H. sp.* “*Esperance Valley*” and *H. sp.* “*Hunter Mountains*” respectively, are known to the author but await collection of suitable samples on which to base descriptions.

### Methods

Material was collected by hand, photographed in life to record coloration and preserved in 70% methylated spirits. Examination was aided by use of a stereo microscope and digital camera, and measurements were