



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

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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