*Hydrobiosis* n.sp. cf. *charadraea* (brachypterous)
*Hydrobiosis* n.sp. cf. *parumbripennis* (brachypterous)
*Zelolessica meizon*
*Periwinkla childi*
*Aoteapysche tepoka*
*Pycnocentrodes aeris*
*Synchorema zygoneura*

*Hudsonema aliena* was found as larvae nearby.

## SUMMARY

My experience in these three alpine areas shows that virtually all the caddisfly species present at that time are present in snow caves.

It is a convenient and enjoyable way to collect alpine caddisflies by day, which otherwise can be difficult to locate.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank John Ward for help with identifications of the caddisflies and Pat Enright, Brent Emerson, Gordon Legge, Holly and Hamish Patrick for company on the alpine expeditions.

## REFERENCES

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# TAIERI GORGE ROCK FACE LEPIDOPTERA

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The finding of nine species of moth breeding on a rock face in the Taieri Gorge between August and November 1991 prompts me to document this fauna and highlight the conservation value of such sites.

The site is at road end, five kilometres east of the Henley Bridge at the western entrance to the Taieri Gorge, east Otago. A lichen, algae and moss covered, north facing rock face, approximately six metres high was sampled for moth larvae. The Taieri River at this point, although six kilometres from its mouth, is still under the influence of the tide, hence saltmarsh vegetation is located below this study site. The following moths were found. Adult emergence time is indicated, and larval foodplant where known.

**Psychidae**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Reductoderces* sp.nr. *microphanes*(Meyrick) | larvae feeding on algae | Aug-Sept |
| *Reductoderces* sp. nr. *aucklandica* Dugdale | larvae feeding on algae | Aug |
| *Rhathamictis* sp. | larvae feeding on algae | Nov |

**Oecophoridae**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Tingena lassa* (Philpott) | larvae feeding on detritus in cracks and ledges on rock faces | Oct |

**Crambidae**

| | |
|---|---|
| *Scoparia chalicodes* Meyrick | Oct |

**Geometridae**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Dichromodes gypsotis* Meyrick | larvae feeding on lichens | Oct-Nov |
| *D. sphaeriata*(Felder & Rogenhofer) | larvae feeding on lichens | Nov |
| *Helastia cinerearia* (Doubleday) | larvae feeding on moss | Oct |
| *Helastia mutabilis* Craw | larvae feeding on moss | Nov |

Additionally, several native plants growing on ledges on the rockface support native moth species at this site.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Nyctemera annulata* (Bois) | larvae on *Senecio quadridentatus* |

| | |
|---|---|
| *Calicotis crucifera* Meyrick | larvae on *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* |
| *Scoparia molifera* Meyrick | larvae on *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* |
| *Pterophorus innotatalis* Walker | larvae on *Dichondra brevifolia* |

Other conspicuous plants present are the grasses *Poa cita* and a *Rytidosperma* species and the exotic *Sedum acre.*

The large ubiquitous case moth *Liothula omnivora* was found pupating under overhangs, presumably the larval foodplant is the kanuka growing above these rock faces.

Both *Dichromodes* species are here at their south-eastern distributional limit. *H. mutabilis* is a local species in eastern Otago and its larval foodplant is here recorded for the first time, the moss *Racomitrion.*

Rock faces of substantial size, are a well known refuge for such palatable herbs as *Gingidia montana* and *Ischnocarpus novae-zelandiae* and their attendant moth faunae and are therefore of considerable importance for conservation of our native biota. Of additional, and perhaps primary importance, is their ubiquitous covering of lower plants and its assemblage of moth species dependent on them.

The moth fauna of this single rock face at Taieri Gorge is indicative of the importance of this habitat type in many parts of New Zealand. Much of the rock face moth fauna is confined to certain discrete areas within New Zealand. Conservation of our rock face flora and fauna must be achieved in all parts of New Zealand at all altitudes to adequately protect the full diversity of native moth species (and other invertebrates) confined to such habitats.

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## OBSERVATIONS OF MATINGS BETWEEN TWO SPECIES OF TREE WETA

A note

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During my Ph.D study of chromosome variation in the tree wetas (*Hemideina thoracica* and *H. crassidens*) I have crossed different chromosome races within species. These crosses have produced viable nymphs. In an attempt to understand