



# Wetapunga

Giant Weta

*Deinacrida heteracantha*

Is the largest insect in New Zealand- and one of the largest invertebrates in the world. It can grow to a size of over 100mm in body length and weigh up to 80g - that's heavier than the average sparrow. The wetapunga is found only on Little Barrier/Hauturu Island. Being found in such a limited habitat, combined with its vulnerability to introduced predators, such as rats, has resulted in the wetapunga being classified as a vulnerable/threatened species and in need of conservation work to improve its chances of surviving and thriving.

Butterfly Creek, along with DOC is currently establishing a captive rear & release project to assist in the conservation of this magnificent insect.