



Ground wētā. Neil Fitzgerald

GROUND WĒTĀ

(HEMIANDRUS)

Get out into your backyard and look for a ground wētā. Please don't touch or try to catch them, they have a job to do!

- Ground wētā are part of a nocturnal cleaning team. During the night, these guys help break down plant and animal material on the ground.
- Ground wētā are a food source for kiwi, morepork and lizards.
- Ground wētā eat dead bugs and some plants and fruit.

Looking for ground wētā

- Look around the base of trees and shrubs for their burrows.
- Ground wētā are nocturnal so you are unlikely to see them during the day. If you are lucky, you might see them in the evening, as they emerge from their burrows to look for food.
- If disturbed, the wētā may raise its hind legs up and hiss at you. This is because it feels threatened and it is trying to scare you away. Give them some space – they're just guarding their territory!