

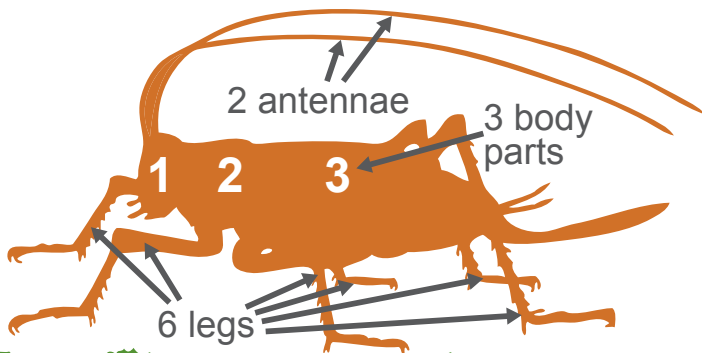
# Wētā

## Wētā facts

- There are over 70 types of wētā in New Zealand, and 16 of those are at risk. Wētā only live in New Zealand (they are endemic)
- There are 5 types of wētā: giant wētā, tusked wētā, cave wētā, tree wētā and ground wētā.
- Giant wētā weigh as much as a golf ball and are too heavy to jump!
- They've been here for at least 100 million years and were around when dinosaurs roamed the Earth

## Wētā classification

- Wētā are arthropods.
- They belong to the insect group because they have: 6 legs, 2 antennae, and a 3-part body.



Male Auckland tree weta. Photo: Maureen Robertson

## Diet

- Wētā eat native plants. Different species prefer certain plants.
- A number of weta species are also omnivorous. That means they'll eat most things - plants, fruit, insects sometimes even things like cardboard.

## Habitat

- They are nocturnal (only come out at night) and live in a variety of habitats including grassland, shrub land, forests, and caves. Some live in holes under stones, rotting logs, or in trees.
- All weta species except tusked weta can also live in alpine areas.