

PAINTED APPLE MOTH

On 20 March the Ministry of Biosecurity New Zealand officially declared the West Auckland and Mt Wellington populations of the painted apple moth (*Teia anartoides*) eradicated. No moths linked to the original populations had been detected in these areas for 2 years. The moth was first found in Auckland in 1999 and since that time parts of Auckland were aerially sprayed up to 69 times.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry estimated its potential economic impact at between \$58 million and \$356 million over 20 years if it became widely established, not counting potential impacts on market access or the conservation estate. It cost \$62.4 million to eradicate. The trapping and monitoring programme will remain in place for some time. For further details see <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/press/200306pam.htm>.



Painted apple moth larva — let's hope it is only photos we see in future.

NOD KAY ON OECD FELLOWSHIP

Nod Kay, a forest entomologist with Ensis Forest Biosecurity and Protection, has been awarded an OECD Fellowship that will enable him to spend 7 weeks in the United Kingdom at Forest Research, an agency of the Forestry Commission. Nod will use this opportunity to further his research into why island plant species are less palatable to insects than continental species. Apart from the research side of things, Nod's visit will be of great assistance in helping New Zealand researchers forge closer links with their UK counterparts. Forest health and biosecurity issues are becoming increasingly global in nature. Issues that arise for us have often been experienced elsewhere, and vice versa.

Another OECD Fellowship has been awarded to David Wainhouse, UK Forest Research, to allow him to visit New Zealand for about 10 weeks. David is studying resistance of young conifers to attack by the large pine weevil (*Hyllobius abietis*). When he is in New Zealand he is going to be looking at the resistance of different *Pinus radiata* provenances to *Hylastes ater* attack. He

will also be talking to Ecki Brockerhoff and John Bain (Ensis FBP) about a possible collaborative project on the invasiveness of different bark beetle species.

NEW ARRIVAL

Samantha Alcaraz has recently joined the Forest Biosecurity and Protection group as a GIS specialist. She replaces Neil Alexander who left some months ago. Samatha studied engineering geology in her native France and completed a Master of Science in Geographical Information Systems at Cranfield University in the UK. She has worked for the IRD — French Research Institute for Development — in Ecuador, the Open University in England, and most recently for the British Geological Survey in Montserrat, West Indies, where she implemented a GIS system for the volcano observatory. Samantha will be using her GIS skills in a number of projects here.

NEW RECORDS

New distribution record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Valsaria rubricosa*; **Region:** Waikato; **Host:** *Pinus radiata*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 14/02/2006; **Ident:** M Dick, 02/03/2006; **Comments:** *Valsaria* spp. are saprophytes. This species has previously been recorded from Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taupo, and Buller.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Pseudocercospora nogalesii*; **Region:** Gisborne; **Host:** *Chamaecytisus palmensis*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 02/03/2006; **Ident:** M Dick, 03/03/2006; **Comments:** This fungus causes a leaf spot on tree lucerne that may result in premature leaf drop when lesions are extensive. It has previously been recorded in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, and Nelson.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Pseudonectria rousseliana*; **Region:** Gisborne; **Host:** *Buxus sempervirens*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 27/02/2006; **Ident:** M Dick, 09/03/2006; **Comments:** This fungus causes leaf spots on *Buxus*. It was first found in New Zealand in 1999 and the spots can become severe enough to cause premature leaf fall. It had previously been recorded from Auckland.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Spilocaea oleaginea*; **Region:** Mid Canterbury; **Host:** *Olea europaea*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 21/03/2006; **Ident:** J Gardner, 24/03/2006; **Comments:** This fungus has been established in New Zealand for a long time and can cause considerable defoliation in susceptible varieties of olives. It is an important disease of olives in Mediterranean countries. It has been previously recorded from Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and Wellington. This is the first record from the South Island.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Coryneum betulinum*; **Region:** Mid Canterbury; **Host:** *Betula pendula*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 21/03/2006; **Ident:** J Gardner, 24/03/2006; **Comments:** This fungus is found on twigs of *Betula* spp. There is no evidence that it is a pathogen. Previously recorded only from Wellington.

New host record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Coleosporium senecionis*; **Region:** Hawke's Bay; **Host:** *Senecio hypoleucus*; **Coll:** J Bartram, 17/03/2006; **Ident:** M Dick, 23/03/2006; **Comments:** An extremely common exotic rust on many species of *Senecio*.

New host record for New Zealand – Fungus: *Cephaleuros virescens*; **Region:** Mid Canterbury; **Host:** *Ilex aquifolium*; **Coll:** B Doherty and P Bradbury, 17/03/2006; **Ident:** M Dick, 23/03/2006; **Comments:** This alga is a common plant pathogen infecting a very wide range of plants, both native and introduced. It is not of any known economic importance in New Zealand.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Nambouria xanthops* (Pteromalidae); **Region:** Gisborne; **Host:** *Eucalyptus cinerea*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 02/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 06/03/2006; **Comments:** This Australian insect was first found in New Zealand in 1999 and has been recorded from about 10 species of *Eucalyptus*. It has previously been recorded from Auckland, Coromandel, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Peltoschema* sp. (Psyllidae); **Region:** Wanganui; **Host:** *Acacia deanei*; **Coll:** J Bartram, 04/02/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 10/02/2006; **Comments:** This undescribed Australian species was first recorded in New Zealand in 1976. The larvae and adults feed on *Acacia* spp. Previously it had been recorded from Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, and Wellington.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Nematus oligospilus* (Tenthredinidae); **Region:** Otago Lakes; **Host:** *Salix* sp.; **Coll:** R Thum, 15/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 17/03/2006; **Comments:** This willow-feeding sawfly was first found in New Zealand in 1997 in Auckland. It is now found throughout most of the country.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Nematus oligospilus* (Tenthredinidae); **Region:** Northland; **Host:** *Salix* sp.; **Coll:** D Bartram, 27/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 31/03/2006; **Comments:** See above.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Illeis galbula* (Coccinellidae); **Region:** Gisborne; **Host:** not applicable; **Coll:** B Rogan, 09/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 10/03/2006; **Comments:** This Australian fungus-feeding lady beetle was first found in New Zealand in 1985. Previously it was known only from Northland, Auckland, and Bay of Plenty.

New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect: *Emplesis bifoveata* (Curculionidae); **Region:** Bay of Plenty; **Host:** *Acmena smithii*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 20/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 21/03/2006; **Comments:** This weevil is native to Queensland and New South Wales. It was first found in New Zealand in 1999 and had previously been recorded from Northland, Auckland, Gisborne, and Wellington.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Peltoschema* sp. (Chrysomelidae); **Region:** Wanganui; **Host:** *Acacia deanei*; **Coll:** J Bartram, 04/02/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 10/02/2006; **Comments:** This undescribed Australian species was first recorded in New Zealand in 1976. The larvae and adults feed on *Acacia* spp. In New Zealand it had previously been recorded from *Acacia decurrens*, *A. floribunda*, *A. retinodes*, and *Acacia* sp.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Phylacteophaga froggatti* (Pergidae); **Region:** Nelson; **Host:** *Eucalyptus quadrangulata*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 28/02/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 03/03/2006; **Comments:** This Australian leaf-mining sawfly was first found in New Zealand in 1985. It has been recorded from a wide range of *Eucalyptus* spp.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Gastrosarus nigricollis* (Cerambycidae); **Region:** Mid Canterbury; **Host:** *Alnus glutinosa*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 09/03/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 10/03/2006; **Comments:** This native species has been recorded as a twig borer in variety of native and exotic hardwood hosts.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Gastrosarus nigricollis* (Cerambycidae); **Region:** Mid Canterbury; **Host:** *Acacia floribunda*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 21/03/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 30/03/2006; **Comments:** See above.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Liogramma zelandica* (Cerambycidae); **Region:** Waikato; **Host:** *Quercus palustris*; **Coll:** M Esson, 08/03/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 15/03/2006; **Comments:** This native long horn beetle has been recorded from the dead wood of a variety of hosts.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Dicranosterna semipunctata* (Chrysomelidae); **Region:** Northland; **Host:** *Acacia koa*; **Coll:** D Satchell, 06/03/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 16/03/2006; **Comments:** This Australian species was first found in New Zealand 10 years ago. It is usually found on *Acacia melanoxylon* and has been recorded from Northland, Auckland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Dicranosterna semipunctata* (Chrysomelidae); **Region:** Bay of Plenty; **Host:** *Paraserianthes lophanta*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 20/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 21/03/2006; **Comments:** See above.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Ceroplastes sinensis* (Coccidae); **Region:** Bay of Plenty; **Host:** *Laurus nobilis*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 13/03/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 17/03/2006; **Comments:** This introduced species is found in most regions in the northern half of the North Island. It has quite a wide host range that includes both native and exotic plants.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Ceroplastes sinensis* (Coccidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Callistemon* sp.; **Coll:** C Scott, 15/03/2006; **Ident:** J Bain, 16/03/2006; **Comments:** See above.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Ceroplastes sinensis* (Coccidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Tristaniopsis laurina*; **Coll:** G Johnstone, 22/03/2006; **Ident:** D Jones, 28/03/2006; **Comments:** See above.

New host record for New Zealand – Insect: *Parasaissetia nigra* (Coccidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Pittosporum* 'variegatum'; **Coll:** J Goodenough, 16/03/2006; **Ident:** R Henderson, 17/03/2006; **Comments:** This cosmopolitan species was first reported from New Zealand in 1879 and is sporadically distributed throughout the North and South Islands. This is the first record of it on a native plant species.

(John Bain and Diane Jones, *Ensis*)