

Butterfly Information

New Zealand Native Butterflies



How many types of native butterflies and moths do we have in New Zealand?

There are more than 2,000

Of those 2,000 more than 90% are found nowhere else in the world



The number and variety of copper butterflies in New Zealand is unrivalled worldwide.

68 other butterflies and moths have been introduced over the last 200 hundred years.

New Zealand has the highest proportion of unique butterflies in the world.

Admirals

Admirals are found worldwide, and three species occur in New Zealand.

Yellow and red admirals are widespread over New Zealand where there are Nettle Plants - Nettle Plants the common name for *Urtica Ferox* - which the larvae eat and live on. Chatham Island admirals are confined to Chatham Islands

The Red Admiral

Its Māori name is kahukura, which means "red cloak" The Red Admiral is found only in New Zealand.

Coppers

These mainly orange butterflies can be found throughout the country, including the high alpine zones.

Coppers have diversified into at least 40 species within four groups.

No single species occurs nationwide, and many have very small distributions.

The largest New Zealand coppers have a wingspan of up to 3 centimeter

