



# Bio-Protection

*Bioprotection science for New Zealand*

## Insects Invading Indigenous Ecosystems

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**Location of Project:** Bio-Protection Research Centre, Lincoln University.

**Abstract:** Any threat to New Zealand's indigenous flora by exotic plant feeding insects is likely to require host range expansion onto a new host. We have access to a database of approximately 150 species known to feed on New Zealand native plants. This research will characterise the biology of these species to help identify emerging or potential threats to native ecosystems. Investigating the biological characteristics underpinning host range expansion of exotic species will contribute new knowledge concerning invasive insect-plant relationships and biological invasions in general. Learn new methods such as artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches to analyse the data.