

MSc Scholarship, University of Canterbury

Translocation of the endangered Robust Grasshopper

Brachaspis robustus is a nationally endangered grasshopper found only on riverbeds in the MacKenzie basin, New Zealand. They are cryptic and specialised in their habitat use and have small, patchy, declining populations that will continue to decline without management. We currently know little about *B. robustus* ecology and have no effective tools for its recovery. We are seeking a keen, competent and enthusiastic student to work with Canterbury University, the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury to test the importance of predation and disturbance on grasshopper survival and population growth. This project will combine ecological and behavioural field studies to monitor the outcome of the first ever translocation of the species to a predator-reduced habitat, and could be expanded to include a population genetics component. The outcomes will be used to provide recommendations on a set of management actions that can be implemented by DoC in the long-term recovery strategy for all populations of this species.



This project is ideal for a student with a passion for ecology & conservation of native species, wildlife management or insect ecology & behaviour. Applicants should hold a BSc, BSc (Hons) or equivalent Postgraduate Diploma in Science in biology, ecology, conservation, wildlife management or similar. The substantial field component of the project necessitates a full driver's licence & competence & enthusiasm for working in the outdoors.

- Scholarship covers domestic student fees for up to 2 years and research costs.
- *Preferred* start March 2015 but will consider start date as late as March 2016.

Please contact Dr Tara Murray for application information
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