

Terrestrial Invertebrates

Pillbugs, Sowbugs, Woodlice, Isopods Order Isopoda (Terrestrial)

ORDER INCLUDES:

- 5 Native Families
- 10 Native Genera
- 19 Native Species
- 18 Endemic Species

GENERAL INFORMATION: Pillbugs, sowbugs, woodlice, and isopods have a variety of feeding habits. They can be carnivores, herbivores, or scavengers. Females carry eggs until they hatch, and larvae are not pelagic. This order is poorly understood in Hawai'i.

DISTRIBUTION: Pillbugs, sowbugs, woodlice, and isopods occur on all the MHI with the exception of Ni'ihau, and on all the NWHI.

ABUNDANCE: Unknown. A lack of systematic surveys prevents any population estimate. However, the loss of native habitats likely means that species within the order are declining.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Terrestrial members of this order occupy a wide range of habitats ranging from marine and freshwater habitats to terrestrial habitats. Pillbugs and sowbugs are terrestrial. Isopods occur in marine littoral zones, rain forests, and caves.

THREATS:

- Competition from non-native species.
- Loss or degradation of habitat.
- Insufficient information for species assessments.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations and key breeding habitats, but also to establish additional populations, thereby reducing the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific management directed toward pillbugs, sowbugs, woodlice, and isopods should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of known isopods and to document and identify new species.
- Preserve, maintain, and restore habitats supporting existing populations.

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring the status of known populations.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Conduct studies to document the biology, habitat requirements, and life history of native species.

References:

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