The wēkiu bug lives among the cinders on 19 different Pu‘u (hills) high up on the mountain (11,500 feet). They are endemic to Maunakea, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world!

- Wēkiu feed on the blood andorgans of insects that are blown up the mountain by Piercing them with its straw-like mouth.
- Young wēkiu are dark brown with red abdomens, while the adult bugs are a more uniform dark brown to black color. Interestingly, they can survive in freezing temperatures that are lethal to most other insects.

Department of Land & Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Natural Area Reserves System