

## Springtails Order Collembola

### ORDER INCLUDES:

- 5 Native Families
- 32 Native Genera
- 95 Native Species
- 95 Endemic Species

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Springtails are primitive, wingless insects. Springtails can be carnivores, scavengers, or fungivores; some also feed on dead (i.e., detritivores) and living plant material (i.e., herbivores). They go through a slight metamorphosis and usually grow to less than five millimeters (0.2 inches). Ants and spiders are known to prey on springtails. The order is poorly known in Hawai'i.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Springtails are known from all MHI except Kaho'olawe and Ni'ihau.

**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:** Because they are hydrophiles ( i.e., water lovers) springtails are most often found in damp habitats. They occur in a wide range of habitats, primarily in soil and leaf litter. Species also can be found in trees, lava tubes, and in the cold desert-like habitat at the summit of Mauna Kea.

### THREATS:

- 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 springtails should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of known springtails 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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