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Terrestrial Invertebrates

Bark lice and Psocids

Order Psocoptera

ORDER INCLUDES:

5 Native Families

6 Native Genera

93 Native Species

90 Endemic Species

GENERAL INFORMATION: Most bark lice and psocids are scavengers or feed on lichen found on woody vegetation. Bark lice and psocids are an important food source for native birds and other insect-eaters. The largest number of endemic species occurs within the genera *Ptycta*, *Palistreptus*, and *Kilauella*, respectively.

DISTRIBUTION: Bark lice and psocids are known from all the MHI except for 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: Unknown. Found mostly on woody vegetation.

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 bark lice and psocids should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of known bark lice and psocids 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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