## What can you do ?

- Conserve the Canterbury knobbled weevils' host plant (speargrass) by fencing or not overgrazing dense or significant patches of the plant
- Control wild pigs which uproot speargrass
- Look out for large weevils on speargrass, particularly on flowers in the morning
- Contact Mike Bowie, Ecology Department at Lincoln University (mike.bowie@lincoln.ac.nz) if you think you have seen Canterbury knobbled weevil. A photo would be useful to aid identification.

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**For further information contact:**

Mike Bowie, Lincoln University, mike.bowie@lincoln.ac.nz

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# The Canterbury Knobbled Weevil

*Hadramphus tuberculatus*

CONSERVATION GUIDE

New Zealand's specialist land-based university

Lincoln University
Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki
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## Introduction

The Canterbury knobbled weevil (*Hadramphus tuberculatus*) was rediscovered in the Burkes Pass Scenic Reserve in 2004. It was believed to be extinct, not having been sighted since 1922.

The Canterbury knobbled weevil was widespread among the lowland areas of Canterbury in the past but the only known remaining population is at Burkes Pass.

The weevils are 16mm in length and can be identified by their dark grey to brown colouring and their distinctive tubercules (raised nodules) on the surface of the body. The Canterbury knobbled weevil lives on speargrass also known as Spaniard (*Aciphylla aurea* and other species).

The Department of Conservation gives the Canterbury knobbled weevil its highest conservation status ranking and is perhaps New Zealand's rarest invertebrate. The decrease in the population and distribution of Canterbury knobbled weevil may have resulted from predation by introduced mammals and habitat loss.

Speargrass or Spaniard (*Aciphylla aurea*) is the Canterbury knobbled weevil's host plant. The Canterbury knobbled weevil feed on the speargrass pollen and probably vegetative parts of the plant. Larvae feed on speargrass roots.

## Threats

**Loss of habitat** - the Canterbury knobbled weevil is completely dependent on speargrass as a host plant

**Predators** - rats, mice, hedgehogs, possums, cats, stoats are all potential predators of the Canterbury knobbled weevil

**Fire** - deliberate or unintentional fires are a major threat to the survival of speargrass and the Canterbury knobbled weevil

**Weed species** - wilding pines and Russell lupins shade and restrict speargrass growth

## What is being done?

### Guardianship of the endangered Canterbury knobbled weevil:

The Canterbury knobbled weevil and speargrass populations at Burkes Pass are being monitored. Areas of similar altitude and habitat are being searched for other populations of the Canterbury knobbled weevil.

Invasive wilding pines and Russell lupins which are entering into the Burkes Pass Scenic Reserve and taking over the speargrass habitat are being controlled.

Raising public awareness of the plight of the Canterbury knobbled weevil and its host plant.

Common Name: The Canterbury knobbled weevil

Scientific Name: *Hadramphus tuberculatus*

Host Plant: *Aciphylla aurea* (Speargrass)

The Department of Conservation gives the Canterbury knobbled weevil the highest conservation status and is considered to be the rarest New Zealand invertebrate.