



Culex (Cux.) rotoruae (Belkin)

Rotorua mosquito

NZ Status: endemic



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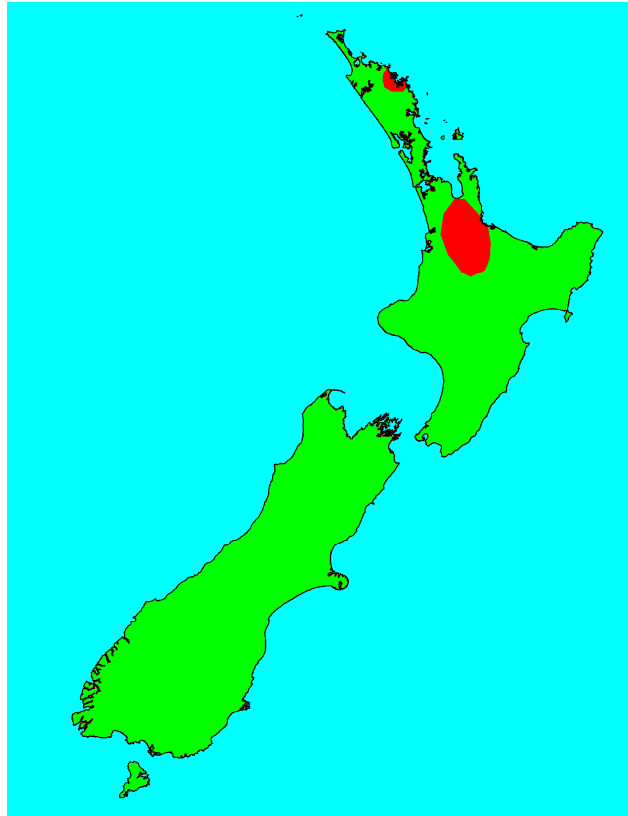
Male

Vector and Pest Status

The host and vector status of *Culex rotoruae* are not currently known. This species has not been reported biting man but is thought to feed on birds (Mackereth *et al.*, 2007). *Cx. rotoruae* has not been recorded in high numbers and has no pest status (Holder, 1999).

Geographic Distribution

Culex rotoruae is an endemic species first collected and described by Belkin in 1962 (Belkin, 1968). It is found exclusively in thermal pools in the Taupo volcanic zone, Rotorua and also at Ngawha Springs in Kaikohe (Belkin, 1968).



NB. This map denotes the general areas where this species has been recorded, not actual distribution.

Incursions and Interceptions

Culex rotoruae has not been intercepted at New Zealand's borders.

Taxonomy

Culex rotoruae belongs to the subgenus *Culex* and is part of the *Culex pervigilans* complex along with *Culex asteliae* (Belkin, 1968).

Life stages of *Cx. rotoruae* appear very similar to *Cx. pervigilans*. Adults may be separated by their darker mesonotum and scaling (Belkin, 1968) and larvae by the siphon size, number of hair tufts and ventral brush hairs.

Habits and Habitat

Culex rotoruae larvae are only found in the mineralised water of thermal springs, widely distributed throughout the central North Island. Larvae have been found in clear and turbid waters with widely varying mineral levels and a pH level anything between pH8.5 and pH5.6 (Dumbleton, 1969).

Hosts of *Cx. rotoruae* remain unknown though they are suspected to be birds. Adult dispersal, host and breeding behaviours are also unknown (Holder, 1999).

References

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