
MWLR WEBINAR

Our Land and Our Future – Tō tātau whenua, mō āpōpō

Impacts of gorse seed feeding biocontrol agents

The following questions were asked during our live webinar with Paul Peterson but due to time restrictions, we were unable to answer these in the session.

Are you going to extend your study to Auckland and Dunedin? More northerly and southerly?

No, not for the intensive seed predation work. We will be doing nationwide surveys this year though, and as part of this we will be measuring seed banks.

Are there any ways to increase/promote seed predation?

Nothing that springs to mind but keeping exotic pollinators away from gorse stands will dramatically reduce seed production.

Are any other predator agents being considered for gorse?

No.

Did you measure the abundance of each agent at both sites? Were there more pod moths at the Christchurch site?

No, we just measured seed predation, but we could tell which agents were causing the damage.

Do native pollinators make any difference or is it mainly honeybees?

No, pretty much all pollination is done by honeybees and bumblebees.

Why does PN have higher seed production rate than Christchurch? Is it due to environmental factors? and do you know what factors?

Could be better pollination, or environmental factors. Christchurch site is higher elevation.

Did the moths drive the autumn flower up north and if so, were they not a factor in Christchurch?

Autumn flowering up North is likely to be driven by warmer temperatures. Buds form in Summer and either open in Autumn or stay closed till spring.