

The mysterious Waitetola, type locality of several New Zealand spiders

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The locality “Waitetola” is referred to as a locality in several publications on New Zealand spider taxonomy (Forster & Wilton 1973, Forster 1979, Millidge 1988). It is the type locality given for *Waitetola huttoni* Forster & Wilton, 1973 (Amaurobiidae), *Diploplecta communis* Millidge, 1988 (Linyphiidae), *Muritaia orientalis* Forster & Wilton, 1973 (Amaurobiidae), *Toxopsoides huttoni* Forster & Wilton, 1973 (Desidae) and *Clubiona delicata* Forster, 1979 (Clubionidae), and the only known locality for the later three species. It would appear that Waitetola may be an area of high spider endemism; however, it cannot be found in the New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names (Land Information New Zealand 2011), the Reed New Zealand Atlas (McKenzie 1997) or MapToasterTopo (Intregrated Mapping 2005).

All of the specimens attributed to the locality Waitetola were collected by the second author (RWH) in the 1960s. At that time, RWH was a high school boy living in Taradale, Hawkes Bay. RWH would collect spiders from places around New Zealand and sent them to the late Ray Forster.

We examined the labels with the type specimens of *Waitetola huttoni*, *Muritaia orientalis*, *Toxopsoides huttoni*, *Clubiona delicata* and *Diploplecta communis*, which are held at the Otago Museum, and compared dates and locality information from other specimens collected by RWH.

The collection label with the holotype female of *Waitetola huttoni* is in RWH’s handwriting and was collected at White Pine Bush (39°17.1’S, 176°52.7’E, Hawkes Bay) on the 7th of April 1968, not “Hawkes Bay, Waitetola, White Pine Bush, 7.ix.1968” as stated in Forster & Wilton (1973). Forster & Wilton give the locality data of the allotype male as “Mahoe” (39°22.9’S, 176°39.3’E), which is also in Hawkes Bay, and is consistent with the label data in RWH’s handwriting.

The locality information for the holotype female of *Muritaia orientalis* has been transcribed by an unknown person but clearly says it was collected at White Pine Bush (39°17.1'S, 176°52.7'E, Hawkes Bay) on the 7th of April 1968, not “Hawkes Bay, Waitetola, White Pine Bush” as stated in Forster & Wilton (1973).

The locality information for the holotype male and allotype female of *Clubiona delicata* has been transcribed by an unknown person but clearly says it was collected at “Waitetola”. These specimens would have been collected from Waitetoko (38°54.5'S, 175°56.2'E), near Lake Taupo, as there are records of specimens of the araneid *Novakiella trituberculata* (Urquhart, 1888), the lycosid *Allotrochosina schauinslandi* (Simon, 1889) and mimetids collected by RWH at the same locality and dates (8–11 May 1968) (Court & Forster 1988, Vink 2002, CJV unpublished data). This would have been during the May School Holidays, when RWH frequently stayed with his uncle at Waitetoko. Forster (1979) incorrectly recorded the locality for *C. delicata* as “Hawkes Bay, Waitetola” and also the date is recorded as 11 May 1963, when it should be 8–11 May 1968. Forster (1979) also lists other records of *C. delicata* from “Hawkes Bay, Waitetola” collected by RWH on the 11th and 17th of May 1966; the correct locality for these specimens would also be Waitetoko as specimens of *N. trituberculata* were also collected there by RWH on the 19th of May 1966 (Court & Forster 1988).

The locality information for the holotype female and allotype male of *Toxopsoides huttoni* was transcribed by Ray Forster, whose handwriting is quite distinct, and can be clearly read as “Waitetola, 7.V.1966”. RWH had collected *N. trituberculata* from Waitetoko on the 19th of May 1966 (Court & Forster 1988), lycosids from Kuratau Dam (38°52.6'S, 175°43.6'E), which is also near lake Taupo, on the 20th of May 1966 (Vink 2002) and *C. delicata* from Waitetoko on 11th and 17th of May 1966 (see above). These records suggest that RWH was at Waitetoko on the 7th of May 1966 and therefore that is the type locality of *Toxopsoides huttoni*.

The collection label with the holotype female of *Diploplecta communis* is in RWH's handwriting and was collected at Waitetoko on 8-11 May 1968, not “Hawkes Bay, Waitetola” on “8-11.v.67” as stated in Milledge (1988).

It seems Waitetoko has also been misspelt as Waitetoku in the collection localities of *Laestrygones albiceris* Urquhart, 1894 (Desidae) (Forster 1970).

Even though all the species mentioned above are not all from one locality, it would seem that Department of Conservation reserves at both White Pine Bush and Waitetoko (White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve [39°17.1'S, 176°52.7'E] and Waitetoko Scenic Reserve [38°54.5'S, 175°56.2'E]) are important areas for endemic spiders and probably also for other terrestrial arthropods.

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