



Wellington tree weta (male)



Gave weta



Cook Strait giant weta



Ground weta



Wellington tree weta (male)



Gave weta



Cook Strait giant weta



Ground weta

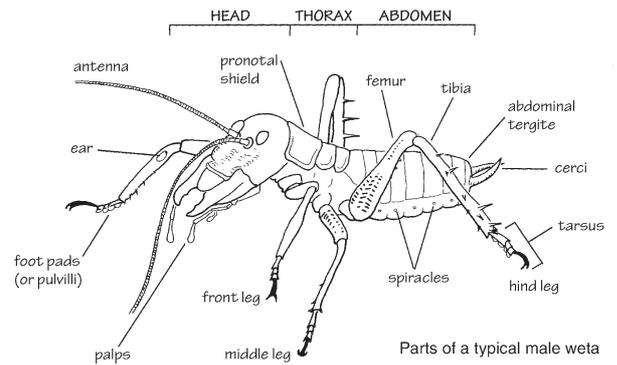
# Weta

Cave weta are found in tunnels or cave, under stones or in hollow rotten wood. They cling upside down to the roof of their home. They have very long legs and are excellent jumpers.

Wellington tree weta and Cook Strait giant weta and ground weta are slower-moving and all have spines on their back legs to protect themselves from predators. The tree weta lives in holes in dead or living wood, the ground weta lives in burrows in the ground and the giant weta lives mainly on the forest floor or on low branches.

All weta are nocturnal.

Scientists studying weta often use 'weta motels' that allow them to observe weta without disturbing them too much. You can view Wellington tree weta in a weta motel today.



- 👉 Quickly look at how the weta huddle together
- ? *What body parts can you identify?*
- ? *Why do you think the back legs are close to entry to the entrance of their home?*
- 👉 Look for signs that weta have been feeding from the surrounding trees.

Photos: Brett Robertson (top left), George Gibbs (top right, bottom right), Greg Sherley (bottom left).

## Related sites

Field Centre display.

Take a closer look at the weta on display.

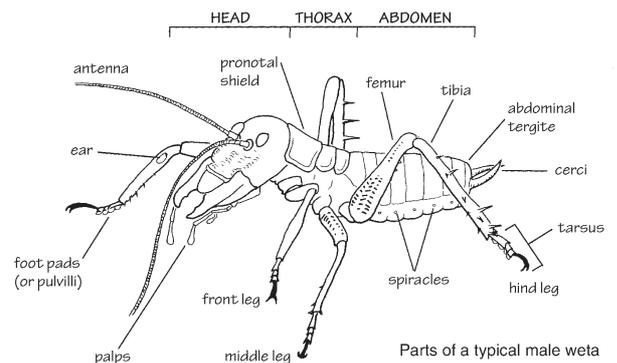
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