

# New Zealand Flatworm

## *Arthurdendyus triangulatus*



### **Identification:**

The purplish-brown back combined with an oatmeal fringe and underside make them unmistakable. They may extend to 12cm, but often rest in a flat spiral. The larvae may be found in glossy black cases, about 7x5mm, like small blackcurrants.

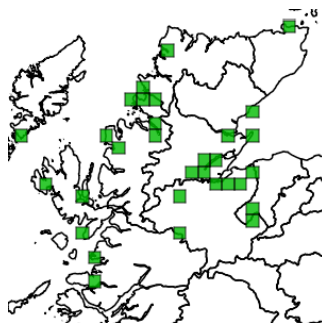


New Zealand Flatworm  
*Arthurdendyus triangulatus*.

Photo © Murdo Macdonald.

### **Distribution:**

This invasive alien is widespread in Highland. While it is recorded mostly from gardens, it is in the wider countryside in Sutherland and W Ross at least.



The distribution of records of the New Zealand Flatworm in the HBRG database.

### **When to look for it:**

It may be found during most of the year, but is usually reported in spring and summer. A wooden board or weighted plastic sack placed on bare ground will attract the worms, which can be found underneath, removed, and killed in a jar containing a few cm of salt.

### **Similar species:**

It is unlikely to be confused with any other species.

### **Notes:**

New Zealand Flatworm is a predator of earthworms and a serious garden and agricultural pest. Read more about this and the related but less common Australian Flatworm *Australoplana alba* on our [Focus on Highland Wildlife](#) page.