

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.

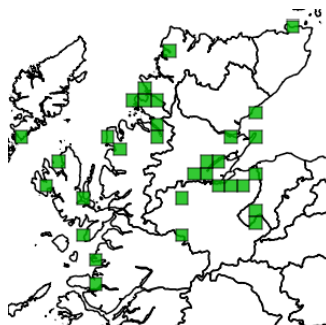


New Zealand Flatworm
Arthurdendyus triangulatus.

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.