

Index to the Rare Bits Newsletters about Threatened Species Work - 20. DELAYS DUE TO POISON USE

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36	Apr -00	10	Bay of Plenty	A further attempt to eradicate mice from [Mokoia] island is planned for late winter if the funds become available.
41	Jun -01	10	Nelson/ Marlborough	Sixteen of the 17 known populations of <i>Gambusia</i> (mosquito fish) have been eradicated in Tasman District using the fish poison rotenone..If <i>Gambusia</i> are still present in low numbers however, they will be difficult to detect...Plans to eradicate the final population have been put on hold owing to rising water levels and cold temperatures, which hinder the use of rotenone.
41	Jun -01	12	Otago	<i>Inland saline sites</i> : the latest weed – <i>Plantago coronopus</i> - threatening these important ecosystems. It's become very invasive at many sites and threatens to wipe out many of the special plants. Biodiversity funding is facilitating a multi-year research programme to test a range of herbicides, some of which we hope will prove effective control agents.
42	Oct -01	4	Northland	The five-year program to eradicate Argentine ant from Tiritiri Matangi Island began .. The bait is laced with 0.01% Fipronil..The entire area was covered with 1.8 gram baits every 2–3 metres, in grid fashion.. Tests carried out on the birds on Tiritiri indicated there was no risk to them, however, just to be on the safe side, two takahe, which sometimes frequent the target zone, were removed to a pen. Eventually, after these birds had taken full advantage of a couple of holes in the fence, they were confined on the correct side of the enclosure! In order to prevent pukeko from eating the bait all open areas such as mo wed pasture and roads were baited at night. Argentine ants forage for food 24 hours a day so night baiting is an option. A range of invertebrates could potentially be killed if they fed on the bait. However, these invertebrates would be the species that suffer most through competition with Argentine ants so, if the ants had been allowed to take over the habitat these others would have mostly died out anyway.. The poison was still killing ants two weeks later. Monitoring through March and April has shown a 99.98% kill with only very small nests or groups of ants remaining..The plan is to treat the infested parts of the island again next season, and hopefully achieve eradication.
43	Dec-01	7	Tongariro/ Taupo	Evidence is mounting of an exceptionally good kill of possums and rats following the 20,000 ha September aerial 1080 operation. Stoats also appear to have been controlled. The race between kiwi chicks trying to grow to a safer weight and stoats re-invading the forest is now on.
43	Dec-01	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	An experiment is now underway to find a method of controlling the weedy sedge, <i>Carex ovalis</i> , in the ephemeral tarn at Sedgemere. The edge is overwhelming the special communities there, which contain one plant known only from that tarn (<i>Craspedia</i> "tarn") and four other tiny threatened plants.
44	Apr-02	4	Auckland	(<i>Sicyos australis</i>): Both populations consisted of large individuals covering an area of 5'5 metres. Unfortunately the weed Mexican devil was found growing near to one of the sites; this will hopefully be targeted for control in the near future.
49	Jun -03	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	Three of the six known gambusia populations have yet to be treated due to a mixture of bad weather, difficulties meeting consent conditions and landowner expectations.
51	Dec -03	1	Auckland	Attempts to carry out a rat eradication operation on Moturemu Island for kakabeak protection have been thwarted so far by continuous rain
52	Mar -04	17	Nelson/ Marlborough	The pest fish season is well under way but is being hampered by unseasonably wet and cold weather. One rotenone control operation to eradicate gambusia at an orchard dam has been completed.
52	Mar -04	29	Little Barrier Island	The tender documents have been sent out for this eradication attempt on Polynesian rats [on Little Barrier Island] this winter. This project has been in the pipeline for several years, but was delayed for a variety of reasons. The way has now been cleared, but only after having to go as far as to the Environment Court. There are no particular problems envisaged with this project, but only time will tell. As with all aerial applications of bait, weather patterns will be the big unmanageable. Fingers crossed for a good spell of fine weather
53	Jun -04	15	Otago	Beech seed and rat and stoat numbers are all up in the Catlins..Coastal Otago staff are developing an operational plan for the Catlins to be able to implement control work when funds become available. The size of the operational area (12,600 ha) makes the planning phase of the

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			operation just as difficult as any operational actions. Our focus is the protection of the large number of mohua found here (c. 2,000 birds). The key threat to plan for is stoat irruptions, but rats are also going to be part of the plan
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