

Earth worms

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program



Earth worms

Earthworms have been in New Zealand for around 65.5 million years. New Zealand has over 200 species of native earthworms.

Some of our native earth worms are rather large for example the one found by the lodge below. Most of our native earthworms live in remote forest habitats so we don't know much about them

Bush earth worms

There are several general habitats for bush earth worms

- those who live in the forest leaf litter
- those who live in the top soil.
- those who live deeper in the soil

The colour of earthworms reflects their habitat: the deep-borrowing soil species are typically unpigmented (pale), while the species which live in the upper layers of leaf litter are dark - red or brown - in colour.

Native earth worms do not tend to survive once the bush has been cleared as there is no leaf litter left and have been replaced by much the smaller introduced earthworms. Most worms in gardens are introduced earth worms.

