



the
species
recovery
trust

Cicadetta montana



Conservation Status:
Possibly extinct

Main Threats:
Overgrazing,
trampling,
bracken
overgrowth



New Forest Cicada

Description: A type of true bug, most known for its striking call. It has clear visible gold rings and large transparent wings.

Lifecycle: Adults emerge from late May to early July, breed during this time and feed on sap by making small scars in the bark of woody vegetation. Nymphs develop in burrows in the soil, for between 6-10 years. In their last spring before emergence, the nymphs build a turret like structure from clay and leaf matter on the surface of the soil, which is believed to be important for male mating calls.

Habitat: Areas between open grass or heathland and woodland with scrub edges in plenty of sunshine.

Distribution: Globally found across the northern hemisphere and in mountainous regions of Europe. In Britain, where it is native, only found in the New Forest, where it has now not been recorded for over a decade.

Status: This species is possibly now extinct in the UK.

Reasons for decline: Year round over grazing limiting the plant species that eggs are laid on and nymphs feed off. Also trampling of nymph turrets exposes them to predation from ground beetles. Finally, an increase in bracken growth means that there is less open ground being exposed to the warming effects of the sun.

Protection under the Law: Protected under Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to intentionally (or recklessly) kill, injure or capture this species. It also makes it an offence to have possession of anything derived from the species.

What we are doing:

- Carrying out ongoing surveys of the New Forest, along with our partner organisations.
- Carrying out feasibility studies for re-introduction into the wild

What you can do:

- Become a species supporter and help fund the project
- Download the Cicada app, and keep your ears open when in the New Forest! Use our [map](#) to identify the best survey spots.