



Photo: Bishop Museum; *Banza nitida*

Terrestrial Invertebrates

Crickets and Katydid

Order Orthoptera

ORDER INCLUDES:

2 Native Families

10 Native Genera

260 Native Species

259 Endemic Species

GENERAL INFORMATION: Crickets and katydids are well-known because of their jumping and singing abilities. In general, members of the order are herbivores, but many species are omnivores. Some of the best examples of cryptic coloration and mimicry are found in this group, with some species being shaped like leaves or being colored to match their background. The number of endemic Hawaiian crickets is twice the number of species that can be found in the entire continental United States. The largest number of endemic species is found in the genus *Trigonidium*.

DISTRIBUTION: Crickets and katydids are known from all the MHI except for Kaho'olawe. Members of this order also are known from the NWHI.

ABUNDANCE: Unknown. A lack of systematic surveys prevents any population estimate. However, the loss of native habitats likely means that species within the order are declining.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Crickets and katydids occur in a wide range of habitats including dry and wet forests.

THREATS:

- Loss or degradation of habitat.
- Non-native invasive parasitoid species.
- Habitat-modifying non-native plants.
- Insufficient information for species assessments.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations and key breeding habitats, but also to establish additional populations, thereby reducing the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific management directed toward crickets and katydids should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine distribution of known crickets and katydids and to document and identify new species.
- Preserve, maintain, and restore habitats supporting existing populations.

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring the status of known populations.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Conduct studies to document the biology, habitat requirements, and life history of native species.

References:

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Zimmerman EC. 2001. Insects of Hawaii: Volume 1 Introduction. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.