

Description of a New Species of New Zealand Cicada

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Melampsalta microdora, n.sp.

A VERY small, slender-bodied species slightly suggesting a very diminutive example of *M. scutellaris*, but abundantly distinct.

Expanse of wings 34–37mm. Length of body 14–15mm. General colour pale green. Antennae black. Two black marks on head in front of ocelli, and black patches between eyes and ocelli. Ocelli crimson. Eyes dark-brown. Pronotum green; two pairs of fine, very oblique, depressed, blackish lines from behind eyes towards posterior margin, the inner pair terminating in disc; a very pale-green median stripe on head and pronotum. Mesonotum tinged with brown, in one specimen with four heavy blackish-brown marks, faintly indicated in the other specimen. Cruciform elevation clear pale-green. Abdomen dull orange-brown, with seven transverse black lines, broadest on midback. Terminal segment slightly dilated, pale green; two elongate black marks at base and one near apex. There are very faint traces of a silvery pubescent streak on mid-back of abdomen and slight indications of silvery pubescence elsewhere. Wings hyaline, narrow, very delicate; costa pale green, tinged with orange-brown towards apex; other veins clear green, becoming blackish towards termination. Legs pale green, tibiae and tarsi tinged with ochreous. Underside very pale green. Ovipositor and rostrum pale ochreous-brown.

Immediately recognisable by its small size, slender build, pale-green colour, and apparent obsolescence of median stripe on abdomen.

Two female specimens of this very interesting little species were captured by Dr. A. G. Clark at Cape Kidnappers before Christmas, 1935.