

A new tussock butterfly species (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Argyrophenga) for New Zealand?

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Over the last ten years large series of tussock butterflies (*Argyrophenga* spp.) were collected from throughout the South Island. It was noticed that specimens of *Argyrophenga antipodum* found in alpine areas of Central Otago differed in both morphology and behaviour to those found elsewhere. Using a combination of morphological, molecular, behavioural, and ecological information we are investigating the taxonomy of these butterflies, taking an integrated approach. DNA sequences from mitochondrial and nuclear genes were used to test the hypothesis that there is an additional fourth species of *Argyrophenga* present in Central Otago, which is distinct from the three named species; *A. antipodum*, *A. janitae* and *A. harrisi*.

