

# Stick Insects

by Dawn McMillan



*Ready  
to Read*

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**rō** (raw – roll the ‘r’ slightly): the Māori word  
for stick insect

For more support with pronunciation, go to [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)  
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# Stick Insects

by **Dawn McMillan**

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- 4 What do stick insects eat?
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## A stick with legs!

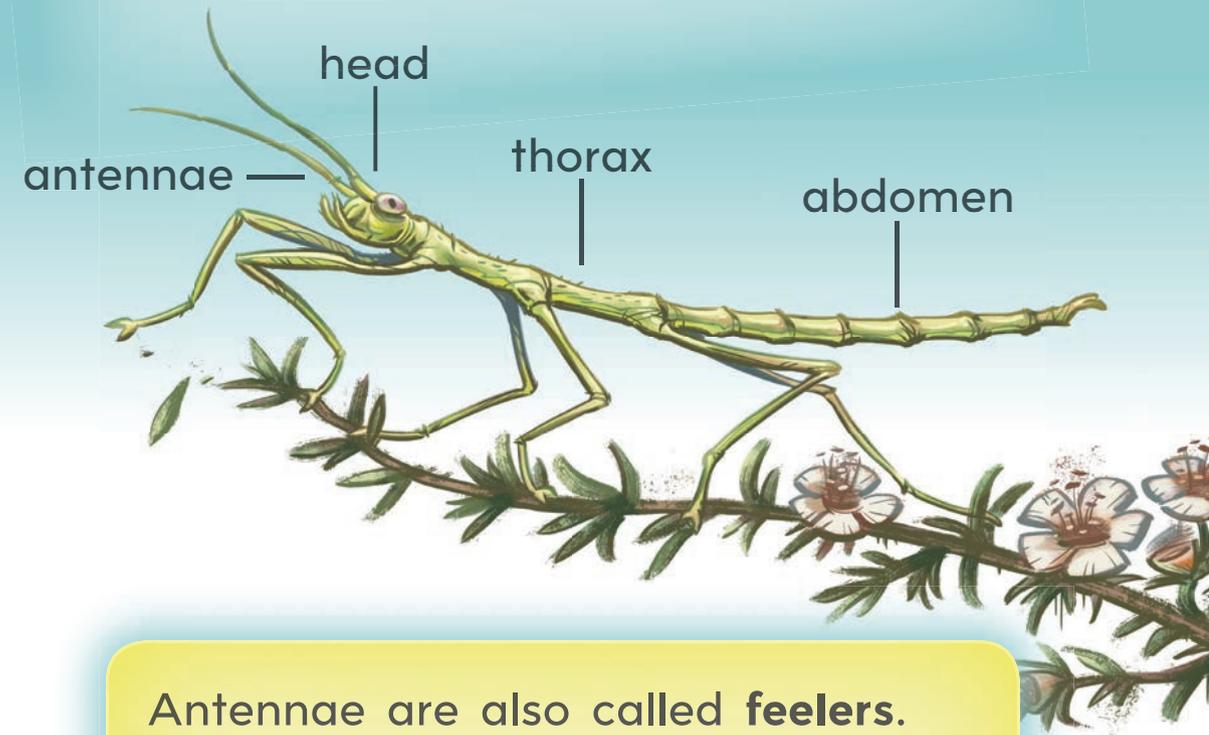
What can you see in the photo?  
It looks like a stick, but it has legs.

Look closer.  
It is an **insect**.  
It is a **stick insect**.  
The Māori word for a stick insect is rō.



## What is an insect?

An insect has six legs.  
An insect has **antennae**.  
An insect has three body parts.  
The body parts are called the **head**, **thorax**, and **abdomen**.



Antennae are also called **feelers**.  
Stick insects have very long feelers.  
They have very small heads.

## Where do stick insects live?

Stick insects live in trees and on plants.



## How do stick insects keep safe?

Birds, wasps, and possums eat stick insects, but stick insects use **camouflage** to keep safe. Camouflage means that stick insects look like the plants they live on.

That makes it hard for the birds, wasps, and possums to find them.



Can you see the stick insect in this photo?

## What do stick insects eat?

Stick insects eat leaves.



# The life cycle of a stick insect

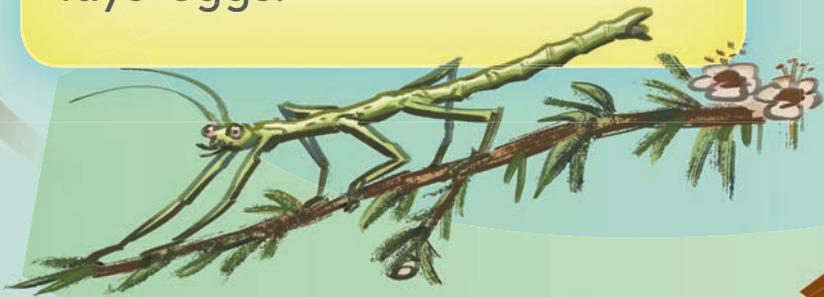
Stick insects hatch from small eggs.



A young stick insect is called a nymph.



A female adult stick insect lays eggs.



Nymphs change their skins when they grow. This is called moulting.



# Many kinds of stick insects

In New Zealand, there are many different kinds of stick insects.



This stick insect is smooth like a leaf.



This stick insect is rough like a branch.



This stick insect has lots of spines. It looks like a prickly bush.

This book is for students to read and enjoy after they have become very familiar with the big book during many shared reading sessions.

Scan the QR code or use the short URL to go directly to an audio recording of this book.



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Stick Insects

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