

**Dr Robert Hoare** was born in the South of England rather over 30 years ago, at which point he was the youngest person in the world. He was not a Doctor at the time, though a doctor is believed to have been not far away. Inevitably, age has taken its toll and Robert is no longer the world's youngest person, though he is one of the world's youngest specialists on the moth family Oecophoridae. His father's beautiful butterfly collection, consisting largely of specimens painstakingly reared from the egg, inspired Robert to run around through shady woods and flower-strewn grassy fields waving a nylon net from early childhood, a habit it has proven impossible to kick. When he grew older, and found it increasingly difficult to emerge from bed during daylight hours, Robert turned his attention from butterflies to moths. Believing there to be more of these in Australia than in England, he deported himself in 1995 to this wombat-infested dustbowl, and thoroughly enjoyed himself for the 3 years it took to complete a PhD. However, he missed the constant miserable wind and rain of green old England, and therefore took employment in New Zealand in 1998, where he works for Landcare Research at the New Zealand Arthropod Collection in Auckland. Here, well watered and restored to full succulence, he continues to study the strange mysterious butterflies and moths of this ancient land, some of which you will encounter in these pages...

