

***PEPEROMIA TETRAPHYLLA* (FORST.F.) HOOK. & ARN.
- FOUR RECORDS FROM THE WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY**

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In February 2001 while carrying out a mistletoe survey in the Bay of Plenty for the Department of Conservation, I observed a specimen of *Peperomia tetraphylla* on the property of W. Bayliss, No. 4 Road, Te Puke (grid ref. U14 997708*). This plant was 2m above the ground and epiphytic on a mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*) growing alongside a track down to the Raparapahoe Stream under rewarewa/tawa forest. This sighting shifts the known distribution some two kilometres further west than the sighting I made in 1994 in a gully along the eastern boundary of the property of G.M. & L.A. Malaquin, 881 Te Matai Road, Te Puke (U15 012645). A voucher specimen from the Malaquin site was deposited in the Forest Research Herbarium (NZFRI 20842), with a duplicate at CHR.

In 1996 many plants were observed growing in the heads of tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) north of Lake Rotoiti (V15 090520). The tawa were growing in deep steep sided gullies in grassed farmland and the *Peperomia* was clearly visible at eye-level.

Shortly before this article was sent to the editor the author was informed (Cashmore pers. comm.) that this plant had been observed in the Otawa Scenic Reserve (Beadel 1985) some five kilometres further west than the Bayliss observation - such is life!

This species is described in Allan (1961) as having a New Zealand distribution from "East Cape district westwards to L. Rotoehu". These four records are all west of Allan's distribution, the Beadel sighting being the most westerly location and is some 30 kilometres further west and is also the most northern known location.

REFERENCES

Allan H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Government Printer, Wellington.

Beadel S.M. 1985: A vegetation survey and an assessment of the biological conservation values of the Otawa-Otanewainuku area. Western Bay of Plenty. Department of Lands and Survey. 61pp.

* All map references are for NZMS 260 series.