

SNIPPETS FROM LAKE OKATAINA SCENIC RESERVE

John F.F. Hobbs

1. Dwarf mistletoe (*Korthalsella salicornioides* (A.Cunn.) Tiegh.)

The only known population of dwarf mistletoe in the Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve was discovered by Chris Ecroyd several years ago. The area is quite small in area (approximately 30m x 30m) with a vertical range from lakeshore to approximately 8m above current lake level (309.5 m asl).

The number of plants could be in the order of several hundred and range in size from single shoots to multiple branched shrubs. All plants so far observed are hosted by kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides* var. *ericoides*) although another known hosts observed elsewhere in the Bay of Plenty, *Leptospermum scoparium* (pers. obs) is also found within the area.

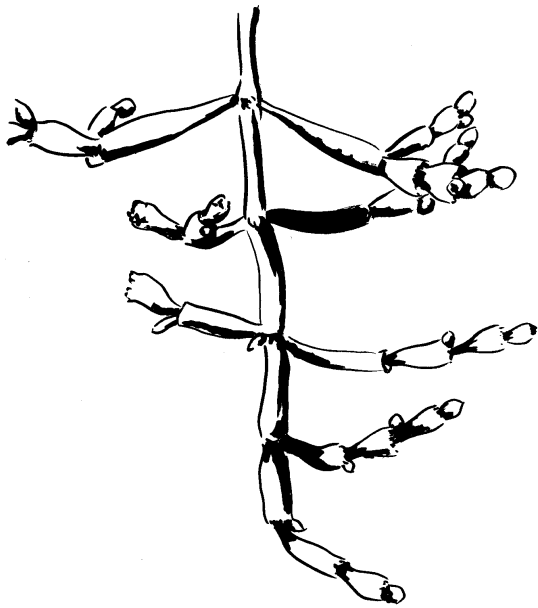
The greatest natural threats to the population are from erosion and wet feet due to fluctuating lake levels and several hosts have been lost in the last year to this factor. When the lake was at its maximum recorded level of 313.4m asl. in 1972 probably less than 20% of the current population would have been present.

Humans also present a great threat - in January 2001 an area of 3m x 3m containing about 30 actual and potential hosts was cleared by a party of picnicking boaties. The Eastern Okataina Walkway passes through the middle of the population and walkers along the track tend to break off overhanging kanuka branches along with the mistletoe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Lake level data supplied by Mark Stringfellow of Environment Bay of Plenty.

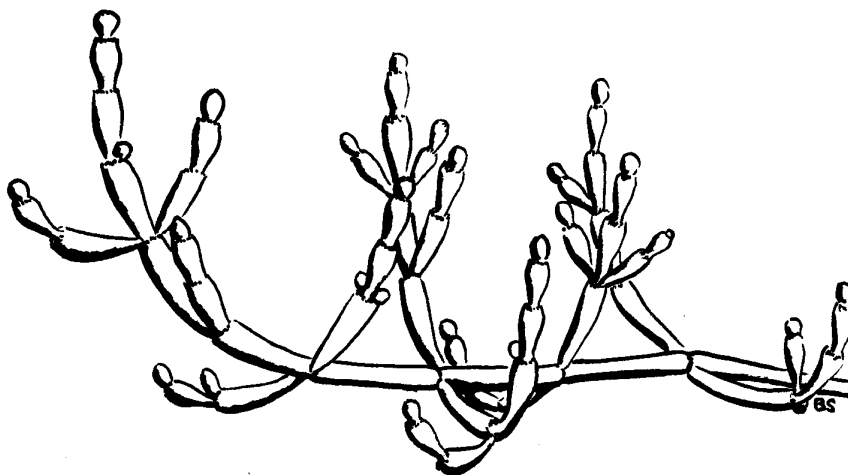
Drawings by Bernard Salmon



KORTHALSELLA SALICORNIODES



KORTHALSELLA SALICORNIODES
ON KANUKA
(KUNZEA ERICOIDES)



Korthalsella salicornioides

