

SNIPPETS FROM THE LAKE OKATAINA SCENIC RESERVE

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2. Mangemange - Bushman's mattress - (*Lygodium articulatum* A. Richard)

Mangemange is the only twisting, climbing fern in New Zealand. It grows from a terrestrial rhizome and produces fronds of almost indefinite length which develop into dense tangles (Brownsey and Smith-Dodsworth 1989). The fern's European name comes from the corkscrew like coils of the climbing stems for stuffing bags to make a simple form of spring mattress. Early Maori used the stems as rope and for holding down the thatch on their whare and to weave into fish-traps. At the point where the stems bend around obstacles, they become so hard and stiff that they would be hardened in a fire and sharpened for use as fish-hooks (Crowe 1994).

Mangemange has not previously been recorded from the Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve and was found from the north side of Kaikakihi Bay (Grid ref. U16 074363) north-east to Grid ref U16 090382, a distance of about 1.5 kilometres.

The first plant found early in 2000 by chance, while climbing ashore to check on a tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), was a pretty miserable looking specimen struggling under and over kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zealandiae*). Since then, while climbing up through the forest in the same area to cut down a small pine tree, I found large numbers in a wide range of sizes all in good health. The observed altitudinal range was from 2m above lake level (309 m asl) to approximately 100 metres above. I have not sighted any mangemange from along the Western Okataina Walkway or along the Eastern Okataina Walkway.

One plant was found later in the year on the eastern slopes of the Lake Rotongata explosion crater in the Waione Block Scenic Reserve in a patch of bush between two old slips. (The Waione Block SR is surrounded by the Lake Okataina SR).

Allan (1961) gives the distribution as " .. from near North Cape to Lat. 38'." and Brownsey *et al.* (1989) " from North Cape to Kawhia and the Bay of Plenty".

Around the Rotorua Lakes Ecological District, Nicholls (1991) notes "... in the headwaters of the Ngongotaha Stream the undergrowth is here and there curtailed with the climbing fern mangemange ...", and Ecroyd *et al.* (1990) mention "*L. articulatum*) occurs in lowland forest in Lake Rotoiti and Te Waerenga Scenic Reserves (north of Lake Rotorua). Has also been recorded from Whakarewarewa Forest."

REFERENCES

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