

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## LILIUM FORMOSANUM II

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Further observations since my previous article (Cameron 1987) on the naturalised lily, Lilium formosanum, are presented.

### BAY OF ISLANDS

\* Just south-east of the Stone Store by the Kerikeri Inlet in the Bay of Islands, L. formosanum is locally abundant over a large area in rough pasture and in a shrubby area under eucalyptus trees (260 P05 985642). Scattered plants are also present on several roadside banks in this general area on both sides of the Kerikeri River. On 10 February 1988 most plants were in full flower; the majority with 1-(2) flowers per stem and less than 1 m tall. Occasional plants were up to 1.6 m tall with a maximum of 9 flowers per stem. Virtually all flowers had a purple-red stripe along the keels of the perianth segments but the very occasional plant had pure white flowers. The plants were a glorious sight due to their large showy flowers which were visible from quite a distance.

There was a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of wild L. formosanum at Kerikeri, which was widespread and well established (roadsides and some vacant sections) in 1938-39 - some people thought it a weed. It is very probable around Kerikeri that L. formosanum, together with Gladiolus undulatus, montbretia, briar roses and raspberries (of a sort) all spread from early missionary plantings (E.K. Reynolds pers.comm., 1989).

\* Also on 10 February 1988 a few wild, flowering plants were seen on the north side (western side of Doves Bay and south side of Tareha Point) and south side (Kerikeri Inlet Rd) of the Kerikeri Inlet.

### WEST NORTHLAND

On 17 February 1988 wild L. formosanum were frequent for at least the first 200 m (as far as I went) and some 30 m either side of the track to Maunganui Bluff from Aranga Beach (260 007 624035). The plants had 1-8 flowers per stem and all flowers were pure white. The plants stood out on this coastal slope amongst flax, bracken, toetoe (Cortaderia splendens) and rank grass (mainly tall fescue and coxfoot).

### POHUEHUE

Also on 17 February there was a single flowering plant (3 or 4 flowers) on the road cutting west side at the top of the Pohuehue Viaduct hill (260 R09 586252). There has been a landslip here since this sighting.

WEST AUCKLAND on 8 February 1989

\* A single roadside plant (3 flowers) halfway between Little Huia and Mt Donald McLean turnoff.

\* Waima, Huia Rd close to Woodlands, Waima side (260 R11 554714). Some 10 plants on roadside bank under kanuka and in the open over a 50 m stretch. A single plant in flower (3 purple-striped flowers) c. 1.5 m tall; other plants smaller and in bud (1 flower per stem).

\* Titirangi, Konini Rd, on both sides of the road, plants up to 1 m tall, 1-3 flowers per stem and all perianth segments purple striped (260 R11 564732).

Many of these records are supported by voucher specimens in the University of Auckland's herbarium (AKU). Bulbs brought back in 1986 from the roadside in the Sailors Grave area, Coromandel and cultivated in my Mt Eden garden started to flower for their third year on 18 January 1989. By 8 February the 16 plants had finished flowering except for a single flower (in bud) on a multiple head. There were 1-5 flowers per stem and the plants were up to 1.55 m tall. Capsules formed and these were held erect increasing the plants' height. There were 1-5 capsules (up to 10.8 cm long x 2.4 cm wide) per plant and by 21 April over half the pods had started to split from the top into 3. The splitting sides remained connected by 'lace-like' webbing which allowed the wind to lift the light, winged seeds out the open top and also water to drain out. The seeds spun like sycamore seeds when allowed to free-fall. By 14 May all capsules were open at the top but none had split widely open and all retained over half their seed. On 25 May two new plants started to flower out of season - a reflection of the mild weather.

On 4 June 1989 I checked the Konini Rd population to discover one plant in full flower, about 40 cm tall, single flowered with dark perianth stripes. Another green leafy plant had its head missing. There were many leafless, brown stalks, 30-60 cm tall with single erect capsules open at their apices and still containing seed. These dead plants would have flowered at the more usual time (January-March).

By the end of June the cultivated plants in my garden although dead, dry and leafless still held their open capsules erect and still contained seed.

Observations in both my articles suggest that L. formosanum is widely naturalised as a garden escape in northern New Zealand and has been for some time (over 50 years at one locality). In some cases the seed may have been originally distributed by humans but the plant does have an effective means of local, seed dispersal by wind. L. formosanum appears to show a range of genetic variability in both flower colour, flower number and plant size. Although these latter two characters are at least partially influenced by plant age and soil fertility as my cultivated plants (ex Coromandel) generally increase in height and flower number each year.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank Katie Reynolds for historical information about the Kerikeri plants.

#### REFERENCE

- Cameron, E.K. 1987. A showy lily (Lilium formosanum) on the move? Auck. Bot. Soc. Newsletter 42(1): 7-8.