

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## A LOWLAND SITE FOR LIBERTIA PULCHELLA

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Although it is recorded in Flora of N.Z. Vol. II that Libertia pulchella (L. micrantha) was found on the banks of the Kerikeri River below the falls (A. Cunningham), I think it is generally accepted to be a plant of the higher country. In "the N.Z. species of Libertia" (L.B. Moore) the distribution is given as "A common plant on the floor of upland forests in high rainfall areas, descending to sea-level in Fiordland". Therefore, the banks of the Mahurangi River above Warkworth, at an altitude of c. 30 metres, seem to be an unlikely site for this plant, especially as invasive weeds are a problem.

Since 1960 Frank Hudson has known of a small population of L. pulchella at an area known as "the falls" on the right branch of the Mahurangi River. However, a gorse bush and a grove of Dicksonia squarrosa have overwhelmed the site, and for the last 10 years it has been presumed that this population was extinct.

On 29 October 1989 L. pulchella was once again found at the falls. Whereas it was previously found upstream from the Falls Road bridge, this new site is downstream from the bridge. About a dozen plants were flaunting their starry white flowers, and the same number, or more, were without flowers. L. grandiflora grows nearby.

The land around the falls has recently been given as a scenic reserve to the Department of Conservation, and is fenced.

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