



EXOTIC STIPLES &C

R.O. Gardner

- A. Bambusa sp. (giant thorny bamboo, cultivated Norfolk I.). Leaf base with outer rim, bristly auricles and ligule. x 1.3
- B. Boehmeria dealbata (Urticaceae, cultivated Auckland ex Kermadec Is.). Shoot near tip, free stipules, x 3.5; stipule x 3.5
- C. Boehmeria nivea (adventive to Norfolk I.). Shoot tip showing fused intrapetiolar stipules, x 3.5; stipule x 3.5
- D. Eucalyptus obliqua (cultivated Auckland). Stipules absent; shoot apex protected by miniature leaves ("cataphylls"), x 3
- E. Annona cherimoya (Custard apple family, cultivated Auckland). Buds protected by deeply-hollowed petiole base. Shoot tip x 2, details x 4
- F. Sida acuta (Malvaceae, adventive to Norfolk I.). Stipules 2 per node, unequal, one narrow, the other long, broad and ribbed. x 7
- E. Celtis paniculata (Ulmaceae, Norfolk I.). Stipules 2 per node, peltate. x 4

FLORA AND VEGETATION OF MOTUKARAKA (FLAT ISLAND) - BEACHLANDS, SOUTH-EAST AUCKLAND

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INTRODUCTION

Motukaraka (6 ha) lies 500 m off Beachlands settlement on the southern shore of Tamaki Strait, Auckland (Grid ref. NZMS 260 R11 868785) (Fig.1). The island is connected to the mainland at low tide by mudflats and a shellbank spit. Foot access is possible 3 hours either side of low tide. People frequently visit the island on foot, horse or by motorbike. The general area is popular for gathering shellfish or fishing.

Motukaraka is cliff-bound on all sides, small cliff seepages are frequent and large pohutukawa (see Appendix 1 for scientific names) form a distinctive fringe around the cliff-tops. These eroding cliffs vary from bare exposed faces to being covered with the island's best native vegetation. The island has a flat summit plateau c. 15 m asl which is largely devoid of forest and is accessible via "Bank Track" - the only easy path which is on the south-east end. There is a small shellbank attached to the island at the southern end and extensive mudstone reefs surround the island and are exposed at low tide. The Waitemata sediments (sandstone/siltstone) of Miocene age are overlain with Whau Formation sediments (clay and silt with some peat) of Pleistocene age (Kermode 1975). A thick (c.40 cm) midden bed is visible at the top of the Bank Track and smaller midden beds are exposed on other cliff-tops. D.R. Simmons (pers. comm.) has informed us that the island's main use by Maori (Ngai Tai Tribe) would have been as a seasonal fishing pa and to a lesser extent as a refuge. Nearby islands were occupied for over 1000