

Table 1. Vascular Flora Totals for North Cape

Plant group	Indigenous	Adventive	Totals
Ferns & fern allies	57	-	57
Gymnosperms	2	-	2
Dicotyledons	168	83	251
Monocotyledons	103	43	146
TOTALS	330	126	456

Ants and *Pomaderris* seeds

Rhys Gardner

While standing around at the edge of a piece of kanuka scrub in Green Bay last summer I happened to notice some ants (the ordinary black unvouchered kind) dragging bits of plant into their nest. This material proved to be seeds and the inner parts of capsules (cocci) that still contained seeds. They belonged to *Pomaderris kumeraho*. The seeds are c. 2 mm long, near-black or (as in Moore & Irwin 1978) mottled black and brown. At their lower end they have a fleshy cushion-like pale outgrowth, the elaiosome, which would be the part eaten by the ants - the rest of the seed would be discarded and so enter the seed bank.

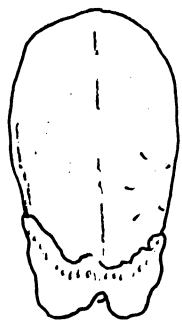
In a notable article Berg (1975) examined the subject of ant-dispersed plants in Australia. He listed *Pomaderris* as one of the genera all of whose species had seeds that were taken by ants. Also listed is *Phebalium*. Our species, *Phebalium nudum*, does have a elaiosome-like structure, though it seems (in dry material) to be rather thin. The seeds are twice as large as those of kumarahou but I suppose would be no trouble to an ant platoon.

The seeds of kumarahou and some other native species of *Pomaderris* are shown in Figure 1. I have not been able to illustrate *P. paniculosa* subsp. *novae-zelandiae*, *P. phyllicifolia* var. *polifolia*, *P. prunifolia*, nor the naturalized *P. aspera*. This is because although there is abundant material at AK none of it has ripe fruit; collectors please take note.

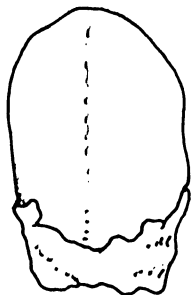
References

Moore, L. B. & Irwin, J. B. 1988. *The Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants*. Oxford University Press.

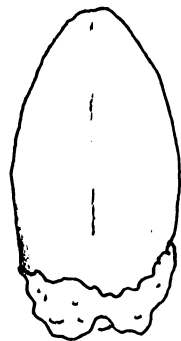
Figure 1. *Pomaderris* spp., seeds and cocci. Ventral aspect. Operculum shown attached or free or lacking. x 2



kumeraho



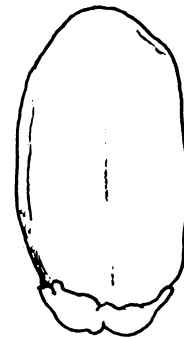
hamiltonii



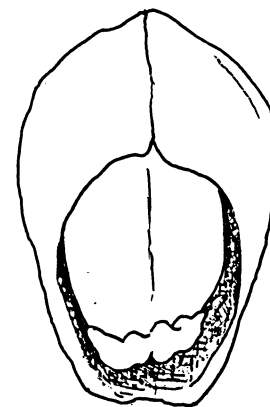
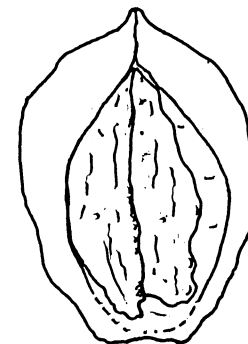
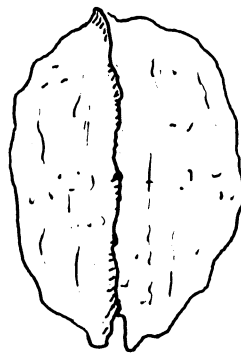
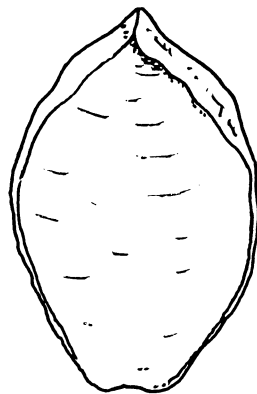
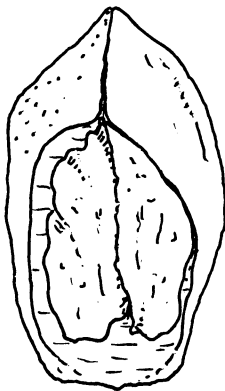
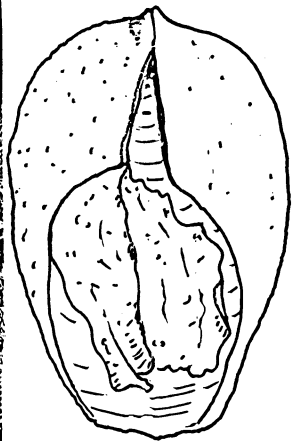
phyllicifolia
var. ericifolia



apetala



rugosa



Pomaderris seeds & cocci