

- provide a backstop against extinction of threatened plants in the wild
- provide plant material for research, displays and cultivation thereby reducing pressure on the wild populations
- provide an aesthetically well-designed thematic display to entice the majority of visitors into the Garden, to inspire and instruct people how to take responsibility and action for their environment
- promote where appropriate the wider use of threatened plants in the home garden and amenity horticulture
- provide plant material for species recovery programmes and translocation programmes
- provide a resource for conservation biology, systematic research, propagation, horticultural and related research, research into pathogen controls
- increase public appreciation and awareness of the ARBG's role as a scientific and educational resource
- provide herbarium voucher specimens to the Auckland War Memorial Museum herbarium.

Acknowledgement

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Steve Benham - Botanical Records/Conservation Officer. Brent Torrens - Curator – New Zealand Native Plant Collection. 21 March 2000, revised 4 April 2000.

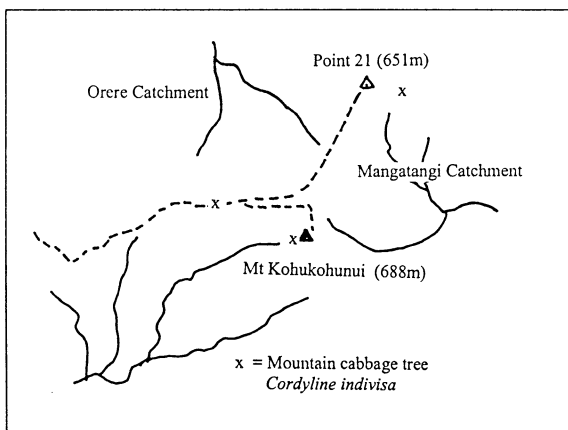


## Mountain cabbage tree (*Cordyline indivisa*) in the Hunua Ranges

**Brenda Greene**

The mountain cabbage tree (*Cordyline indivisa*) reaches its northern limit in the forests of the Coromandel and Hunua Ranges (Fig. 1). In the Hunua Range, south-east of Auckland, mountain cabbage trees were first recorded on Mt. Kohukohunui by Edwards and Bieleski in 1951 (NZMS-S11 078 602). In 1969 R. Middleton and I. L. Barton recorded reported a mountain cabbage tree at Point 21, north of Mt. Kohukohunui (S11 082 610). There was at least one large tree about 15 cm dbh and 5 m tall, due east of trig, plus 10-12 other small plants (I. Barton, *pers. comm.*). Small cabbage trees were also scattered along the track approaching the summit (S11 064 602) and on the track out to Point 21 (I. Barton, *pers. comm.*). I visited Point 21 in 1993, and noted one small

cabbage tree growing adjacent to a grassy clearing, on a 25° slope facing eastward. This grew to about 2 m in height, but started to fail after Auckland's drought in 1995, and had died by my last visit in November 1999. The Kohukohunui site record, and track edges to the summit, and Point 21 were checked at the same time, but no trees were located.



The abundance of *Cordyline indivisa* has decreased in the last 30 years, and although no records currently exist, this does not preclude that a seed bank is still viable, or other trees are present but unrecorded.

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### Historic distribution of mountain Cabbage tree, *Cordyline indivisa*, in the Hunua Range.