

The Epiphytic flora of the One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie) pine

Doug Rogan

Following considerable media exposure the Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) that had been growing there for some 125 years (see NZ Herald articles 26 & 27 October 2000) was removed from the summit of One Tree Hill on Thursday 26 October 2000 (see Fig. 1 for remembrance). The Auckland Museum was offered the basal portion of the tree and when Ewen Cameron and I went out to inspect the remains at the Cornwall Park Grounds Department (see fig. 2.) this offered an ideal opportunity to record the epiphytes. Specimens of the tree are vouchered in the Auckland Museum herbarium (AK 251283 & 251284).

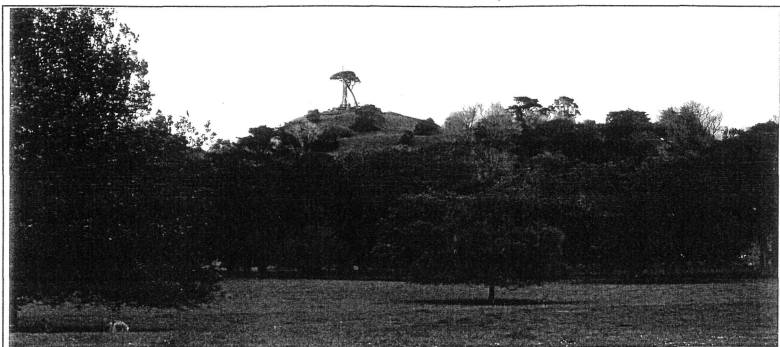


Figure 1. One Tree Hill the day before the tree was cut down – taken from Greenlane Road.

In all only 12 plant species were recorded growing on the pine and it is probably due to the very harsh environment that the tree has grown in that the epiphytic flora is so limited. The only vascular species recorded is pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), of which there were five seedlings that were removed from the tree; these are being grown on for Auckland City as a possible replacement (see *Central Leader* article of 8 Nov 2000). Surprisingly, no mosses or liverworts were recorded even in the small nooks and crannies near the base, which should have provided a refuge for some hardy bryophyte (even *Frullania rostrata* wasn't seen - this is a



Fig. 2. Basal portion of tree (base on left) showing abundant *Rimelia reticulata* and squatting botanist (for scale).

green-red liverwort renowned for growing in quite inhospitable places). Bryophytes are obviously rather shy of the chainsaws and explosives which have haunted the tree during its colourful history. The tree is, however, well endowed with a covering of foliose lichens. The most common of these is *Rimelia reticulata* that is relatively common all over the trunk but is denser nearer the base, except for the areas where chainsaw attacks have occurred (see Fig. 2.).

Grace (1995) mentions only two epiphytes for Cornwall Park and One Tree Hill Domain – pohutukawa and Port Jackson fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) – which were seen growing on Chinese windmill palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*). This shows just how hardy and versatile our pohutukawa is (perhaps this is evidence that pohutukawa should be planted on the summit?) and how overlooked the non-vascular flora is!

Wilcox and Rogan (1999) also list a number of epiphytes from Cornwall Park but this concentrates on the scoria walls. In the Auckland Museum herbarium there are 3 epiphytic specimens recorded from trees in One Tree Hill Domain – *Pseudocyphellaria aurata* (AK 184834 & 240093) growing on cabbage trees; *P. poculifera* (AK 233009) also growing on cabbage trees; and *Sticta squamata* (AK 240129) growing on *Platanus x acerifolia*. None of these epiphytes were seen on the One Tree Hill tree.

<u>Epiphytes:</u>	AK 251288	<i>Usnea arida</i>	<i>Cliostomum</i>
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	<i>Heterodermia speciosa</i>	<i>Usnea pusilla</i> AK 251287	? <i>spermogoniata</i>
(only non-lichen)	<i>Rimelia reticulata</i>	<i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i>	AK 251285
<i>Chrysothrix candelaris</i>		AK 251286	<i>Parmotrema dilatatum</i>
<i>Flavoparmelia soledians</i>	<i>Rimelia cetrata</i>	<i>Lepraria incana</i>	

References

- Grace, A. B. 1995. Botanical Society Trip – Cornwall Park and One Tree Hill Domain. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 50(2): 80-82.
- Wilcox, M. D., Rogan, D. B. 1999. The Mural Flora of Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 54(2): 35-46.



Melaleuca brush fences

Mike Wilcox

An attractive type of brush fencing material is now becoming popular in Auckland. It comes made-up in tightly-woven panel sections (1100 mm wide x 45 mm thick), and is useful for garden fences, shade houses, screens, and windbreaks. It has been used to good effect at the Ellerslie Flower Show, and was used by the landscaping firm, Bill & Bens in the make-over of my brother John's garden at Arkles Bay for the TV programme "Mucking In".

The brush material comprises dried branches of *Melaleuca uncinata* R. Br., an Australian shrub known as broombush, broom honey myrtle, or *kwidjard*. It is an erect multi-stemmed shrub to 3 m tall, with numerous ascending branches, and occurs

in mallee and woodland in NSW, Vic, Qld, NT, SA, and WA. In South Australia it occurs with *Eucalyptus incrassata* in a mallee-broombush community, and commonly as an understorey in mallee, or as a pure thicket. It is cut and used for brush fences and shade houses, the main areas being around Keith and Bordertown in the upper southeast of SA. The harvesting of broombrush is quite sustainable as it coppices readily after cutting.. Brush fence panels are now readily available in Auckland imported from South Australia by Brustics Brushwood Fences Ltd, Albany. The material is durable and is reputed to last outside for at least twenty years.



Ewen thanks those people who have submitted a short note on Lucy Cranwell; these will appear in the next issue, along with some photos – Editor.

Acknowledgement:

Ewen Cameron helped in the proof-reading of this Journal of the Auckland Botanical Society.