

Araucaria columnaris (J. R. Forst.)
Hook.

Cook pine, pin colonnaire. Isle of Pines, Loyalty Islands, Grande Terre. Maximum growth and abundance at the edge of the sea, in dense evergreen forest on ancient raised coral reefs. Commonly planted all over New Caledonia, and grown in the tropics as an ornamental. Grows to 60 m and 1.5 m diameter on the Isle of Pines, forming dense pure stands of striking columnar habit, standing above stunted forest on cliffs, exposed the prevailing winds. These populations, which mostly form narrow strips of a few dozen metres wide, are among the most spectacular plant formations of New Caledonia. "La marque déposée de la Nouvelle-Calédonie".

Araucaria humboldtensis Buchholz
Humboldt araucaria. Mont Humboldt, Mont Mou and Montagne des Sources, 750-1500 m. Occurs on the southern portion of the island, on ultramafic substrates. A tree 6-15 m tall, with a steep branches forming a flattened, candelabra-like crown.

Araucaria laubenfelsii Corbasson
de Laubenfels araucaria. At 400-1300 m, southern mountains around Nouméa: Mont Mou, Montagne des Sources, Mont Dzumac, Mont Do. At Mont Do Botanical Reserve, this species receives an average rainfall of 1690 mm per year (more if fog drip is accounted for), with a precipitation

maximum in February (avg. 255 mm) and minimum in September (45 mm). It occurs on ultramafic soils in both maquis and as an emergent in upland rain forest. In both habitats is evidently regenerates more or less continuously in response to small-scale disturbances including fire (in maquis) and blowdown (in maquis and rain forest). It does not form closed stands. On Mont Do massif, on ultramafic soils as an emergent tree in rain forest and also in maquis vegetation. A columnar tree 10-50 m

Araucaria luxurians (Brongn. & Gris)
de Laub.

coast araucaria. S Grande Terre: along the coast, 0-200 m. Local in maquis and forests. Sensitive to fire. Able to grow on brown hypermagnesian soils, with very high Mg and low Ca levels. A columnar tree to 30 m tall.

Araucaria montana Brongn. & Gris
mountain araucaria. Throughout the Grande Terre on crests of mountain ridges, and plateaux, often visible from a great distance. 300-1300 m. Columnar tree 10-40 m tall. Branches numerous and spreading.

Araucaria muelleri (Carrière) Brongn. & Gris

Mueller araucaria, pin candélabre. S Grande Terre: Mont Koghi to Montagne des Sources, 150-1000m. A tree 10-25 m. tall, with a candelabra-like crown, but trees on ironstone substrate on the Goro Plateau are stunted.

Araucaria nemorosa de Laub.

Boisé araucaria. Southern Grande Terre: Port-Boisé, to 10 m altitude. Known only from a six small stands near the coast, Bay of Port-Boisé, in the extreme south. Emergent in rain forest. A tree to 15 m tall, with an oval or conical crown. On serpentine.

Araucaria rulei F. Muell.

Rule araucaria. Central and southern Grande Terre, 150-1200 m. On serpentine soils. Generally occupies sites containing nickel ore. A tree to 30 m tall but usually much smaller, with an open crown of candelabra branching.

Araucaria schmidii de Laub.

Schmid araucaria. NE Grande Terre: Mont Panié, rare, 1500-1630 m. Only found as an emergent above low forest on the escarpment slopes bordering on the summit plateau of the Mont Panié Range. Not found on ultramafic rocks. A tree to 30 m tall, with numerous ascending branches.

Araucaria scopulorum de Laub.

Rock araucaria. NE Grande Terre: Poum, Dothio, Cap Bocage, Houailou, 0-200 m. Small tree 5-20 m, with an oval crown. On rocky serpentine sites.

Araucaria subulata Vieillard

Narrow-leaf araucaria. S Grande Terre: Ignambi; Canala; Mont Dzumac; Montagne des Sources, 320-1900 m. A straight columnar tree to 50 m tall. Ultramafic soils.

Acacia parramattensis in Northland

Mike Wilcox

When travelling in Northland this January I noticed in several places groups of a large species of bipinnate wattle in flower. Familiar wattles such as silver wattle (*A. dealbata*), green wattle (*Acacia decurrens*), and black wattle (*A. mearnsii*) flower from winter to late spring (July-October), so it was not one of these. Likewise, cedar wattle (*A. elata*) was ruled out because it is a larger tree and has very much bigger pinnules, and flowers mainly February to March.

Close examination of the summer-flowering Northland trees showed them to be Parramatta wattle (*A. parramattensis*), a species from the Blue Mts and the

Penrith-Wiseman's Ferry area of New South Wales, Australia. I recorded trees at Rainbow Falls (Kerikeri) and beside the road from Kerikeri to Waimate North. The Rainbow Falls trees appear to be thoroughly wild, and were at least 10 m tall.

Parramatta wattle looks rather like black wattle, with the flowers the same pale yellow, but I noticed it lacked the disfiguring galls caused by *Uromycladium* rust so common on older trees of black wattle. The herbarium at the Auckland Museum has records of *A. parramattensis* from Rawene, Haruru Falls (Waitangi), Kerikeri Falls, and Brodie's Inlet (Rangaunu Peninsula).