

TAWAPOU

- Any New Records?

The tawapou, or simply pou as it was called by the Maoris of Great Barrier Island, is a fine tree of very restricted coastal distribution in the Auckland area, and a few places further afield, more particularly on the off-shore islands.

Its most distinctive feature is its large "varnished" fruit, which develops from a rather insignificant flower, like so many of our native trees. It is probably better known in cultivation, and indeed some of the now seemingly natural occurrences of this species (of Malayan origin) could have resulted from planting by the Maoris. The boy seeds were strung for necklaces for the Chiefs. Finding a fine young tree bearing heavy fruit recently I collected and cleaned the seeds and strung them making a most attractive necklace for my wife.

I now wish to record the known distribution of the tawapou and will start by listing the collections represented in the Auckland Museum herbarium as follows:

Mangonui - Simmonds Is. L.J.Bishop
 Poor Knights Is. Mr.Pycroft
 " " " Tunnel and Southern Is. L.M.C. & L.B.M.
 Hen & Chicken Is. - Motu Muka Mrs.P.Hynes
 " " " - Taranga Mr.Pycroft
 Fanal Is. - Motuhineu Is. Mr.Pycroft and Dr.Falla
 Little Barrier Is. J.Adams, 1901 (Cheeseman-ascends to 1500')
 Great " " Port Fitzroy, F.M.Warren; Kaikoura Is. (T.K.)
 Motutapu Is. Mrs.P.Hynes, 1950
 Waitakares:

Anawhata R.Cooper, 1957) I would be glad to hear more
 Whatipu Mrs.K.Wood, 1953) of the current status of the
 Karekare D.J.Mead) tawapou in the Waitakares, J.H.

Thames : Paku J.Adams. Other localities too?

Ship's Cove, Between Hick's Bay and Opotiki. L.B.M. & L.C.M.
 North Cape - Kerr Point Mrs.P.Hynes, Mr.Pook (var. "austror-montana")
 Three Kings Is. - Great Is. Turbott & Bell, 1946. Baylis, 1934
 Kaitia - Doubtless Bay. Tawa Rock, Merita, Matthews, 1903
 near Ranganui Heads, B.H.Walker, 1949
 Cavalli Is. Mr.Pycroft, 1932
 Whangarei Heads Carse, 1898. R.Cooper, 1963,

Is it still at East Cape and Tolaga Bay? (Cheeseman)

The N.Z. species is possibly endemic, formerly known as *Sideroxylon* it is now named *Planchonella novo-zelandica*.

I have verbal records for Waiwera and Wenderholm (Mr.Farnell), and also Taketu Point, near Leigh (Mr.Young), and I am sure there must be other trees along the coast. I look forward to hearing from you.

J.H.