

disappeared. Now this year another young plant has appeared on the opposite side. The cliffs of the Manikau Harbour are the home of many of these ferns where occasionally they appear among the more usual Blechnum capense species.

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SMALL BEECH STAND AT WHATIPU

Mrs. K. Wood

The Auckland Centennial Memorial Park's chief ranger, Mr Bill Beveridge, first noticed these trees about two years ago while following an old logging track. Early this year they were visited again by senior ranger John Walsh who told me of their existence. I was very interested to hear of them, for the only known remnants of beech, Nothofagus truncata, in the Waitakeres grow in two gullies at Titirangi.

On 3rd October Mr Beveridge took me and some friends in to see this stand and we found them located on a small ridge beside the upper Whatipu stream. There were four adult trees, the largest 63" in girth, the others 38", 29½" and 10" in girth respectively. We searched for and found a seedling about 1 ft high. Down below in the stream bed, growing in some moss was another tiny plant about 1½ inches high. The surrounding area had been subjected to extensive milling operations in earlier days so it is possible that many other beech trees as well as kauris could have been cut and milled. Monoao, Dacrydium kirkii, now so rare in the Waitakeres, also once grew here and we were shown a fence post cut from this species.

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FUCHSIA PERSCANDENS. WHAT IS THE NORTHERN LIMIT?

R.D. Creswell

In the Waimata River country, 16 km north of Gisborne, sprawling down a grassy bank is Fuchsia perscandens. The long trailing stems up to 4 cm in diameter, with fine light grey bark, are most distinct from the brown of F. excorticata. In early September most of the laminae were immature - some were advanced enough to show sinuate margins, with minute serrations, though not distinctly so as shown in "Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand" by A.L.Poole and N.M.Adams.

This liane had profuse flowers, single or 2 to 3 together. In character similar to F. colensoi or F. excorticata, but smaller, the colouring being similar.