

*Pseudowintera axillaris*Lucy B. Moore

In *The Botany of Auckland* (1981, p.103) Lucy Cranwell asks "What happened to horopito?" In the Waitakeres where Cheeseman had found it locally frequent in 1872 she could refer to only two recent records, one in Piha Valley, the other behind Huia. Any extant plants north of Auckland seem therefore to be worth reporting.

Logue's Bush, some 10 km eastwards from Wellsford, at an altitude of about 100 m, in the Whangaripo Valley, was visited by the Mid-North Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society on 23 May 1982. Quite close to the stream and not far below the swing bridge that gives access to the bush, Mr Frank Hudson spotted an unfamiliar shrub consisting of a few slender branches and about 2 m tall. The entire leaves with pale, almost bluish undersides suggested horopito and anyone prepared to chew a fragment could confirm that this was indeed "Maori painkiller". A few paces further on a second plant was seen, similar in habit to the first and, like it, without flowers or fruit; leaves were healthy with little or no insect damage. These plants, growing amongst mixed shrubs of like height, were well shaded under a high canopy.

Mr Hudson recalls seeing horopito in two places at Kaipara Flats about 1940 but the few plants have long since disappeared. Does this species still grow right up to the Far North as recorded by Kirk and by Cheeseman?

TWO PTEROSTYLIDS THAT APPEAR TO BE 'HOOKED' ON KAURIE.D. Hatch

I have been aware for 40 years that *Pterostylis brumalis* L.B. Moore and the plant Cheeseman described as *P. graminea* var. *rubricaulis* (Matthews) were to be found in the immediate vicinity of the kauri, but it was not until 1968 (*N.Z. Journ. Bot.* 6: p.485) when Dr Moore described *brumalis* and I looked at the species afresh, that I realised that neither plant had ever been found anywhere else. While both can and do grow in the soil, they seem to prefer the loosely packed debris which builds up round the bases of the trees, growing entangled in fungal hyphae among the noduled kauri rootlets. I have only found *brumalis* in stands of pole (or ricker) kauri, while *rubricaulis* grows both with pole and with mature trees.

*P. brumalis* needs no further discussion, except to say that it appears at present to be confined to an area between Warkworth and Coromandel, being most abundant in the Waitakere and Hunua ranges. Dr Moore (*ibid.* p.486) records specimens in CANTY from Birkdale (Auckland North Shore) in 1920 by H.B. Matthews, and from Mauku (Waiuku) in 1899 by H. Carse; and there is a specimen in AK from the Pukapuka Bush, Mahurangi West, collected by Phyll Hynes in 1971. It may still linger in kauri reserves on Auckland's North Shore, but these are becoming in general too trampled to be suitable. Mr John Smith-Dodsworth made a survey during June 1982 of the north-eastern Coromandel ranges and recorded it from 5 localities, in each case with pole kauri.