

RECENT DISCOVERIES OF UNCOMMON SPECIES IN THE KAITAIA AREA

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ORCHIDACEAE

Cryptostylis subulata in peat swamp behind Karikari Bay on the Karikari Peninsula - 1982-83. Two populations - one of about 20 plants and the other of approx. 500 plants. (In association with C. subulata there were a few specimens of Cyclosorus interruptus and Thelypteris confluens.)

Caladenia lyallii. In August 1983 I observed a small population of less than 20 plants at Kaingaroa (east of Kaitaia). These plants were very slender, being 100-125 mm in height when in flower. The quite dense leptospermum scrub was possibly a little too shady for this orchid.

Bulbophyllum tuberculatum. In the Takahue Valley, south of Kaitaia in October 1983 I observed two populations. The first, on the trunks of host trees nikau (Rhopalostylis sapida) and kahikatea (Dacrycarpus dacrydioides) were from 0.5 to 2 m from ground level. These trees were on the edge of bush in a farm paddock with a southerly aspect but with good light. There were approximately 30 plants of various sizes growing in association with Bulbophyllum pygmaeum, the fern Pyrrosia serpens and lichens. The later had an overwhelming tendency in some cases. There were also large numbers of Drymoanthus adversus on similar host trees and other shrubs in the area. The second site was almost a kilometre away with only a small number of plants in similar habitat.

FERNS & FERN ALLIES

Todea barbara at Lake Ohia on the Karikari Peninsula on Lands & Survey development property in December 1983. This site with more 30 plants was subjected to a fire in the summer of 1982-83. Some plants were completely destroyed, others partially damaged but most survived. Since the fire, Lands & Survey have advanced their development programme, and are converting this formerly leptospermum scrub covered area into pasture. It is hoped that this site can be fenced and reserved. Not long after this siting I located a group of 3 plants in a previously unsurveyed gully on my own property at Paranui (east of Kaitaia, near Peria). These had almost been destroyed by the construction of an access road, but have been successfully transplanted about 50 metres away to safe haven beneath some tree ferns.

Lycopodium serpentinum in December 1983 at the Ahipara gumfields I observed numerous scattered, small patches over a wide area.

Dracophyllum sinclairii at the Ahipara gumfields in January 1984 I observed that, perhaps, 5% of this species in this area were pink flowered (colour range is from light pink through to dark crimson). I have also recorded this variety (4 plants) on my property at Paranui.

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