

ADDITIONAL RECORDS AND CONFIRMATIONS FOR MT KAKEPUKU HISTORIC RESERVE, TE AWAMUTU

P.J. deLange

INTRODUCTION

During the compilation of the vascular flora of Mt Kakepuku in March 1985, John Smith Dodsworth and myself were engaged in the pursuit of the ferns and fern allies. During lunch time a discussion arose as to whether one should include Ophioglossum coriaceum on the checklist, as this species had been noted in 1978 by one of us (P. J. deLange) but was not noted during the ascent of the Mountain. The general agreement was it should not be included because it was not seen by anyone else.

Later in the afternoon both of us set off to explore the upper part of the main ravine running east of the mountain summit, in doing so we located a large patch of Trichomanes endlicherianum under a steep overhang in the shade, this we dually collected, labelled and later gave to Anthony.

Some time later I was sent the checklist draft and noted the absence of this species, it appeared the collection had been lost. Having now a good reason to go back I set off later in the year to try to relocate both species. The Ophioglossum was discovered in tall bracken (Pteridium esculentum), but the rediscovery of the Trichomanes had to wait until this year (1986).

The following outlines a further two new records and details of the Ophioglossum and Trichomanes endlicherianum locations.

Ophioglossum coriaceum (WAI 4819)

Generally an uncommon species in the Waikato, but locally common in wet flushes of the Awaroa Valley, Kawhia and on the open summits of Ruapane, Mahaukura and the Cone on Pirongia Mountain. Several patches occur on Mt Kakepuku, but nowhere is the fern common. The largest patch occurs below the summit trig and has been decreasing in size since I first saw it during 1978 as the vegetation gives way to taller secondary regrowth. Several other small colonies occur (2-5 plants in each) off the main track in open ground or in crevices of the outcropping rock. A single frond and a few rhizomes were removed, the frond was lodged in the University of Waikato Herbarium and the rhizomes planted to observe their growth cycle.

It soon became apparent why we had missed the fern in March, the plants behave very differently to other Ophioglossum on nearby Pirongia. Plants are dormant for most of the year, arising in August and dying down in January. Other populations on Pirongia are present all year round (although growth ceases in July — but the fronds do not die until new growth has commenced).

Trichomanes endlicherianum (Specimens sent to AK)

Several colonies were noted in holes amongst boulders and under dark overhangs -- as is typical for the species. Generally uncommon in the area despite detailed searching.

Trichomanes elongatum (Specimens sent to AK)

A surprise find, noted with the above species in one site. Not very common, several plants seen in very dark holes near the Cyathea cunninghamii colony.

Hymenophyllum atrovirens (Specimen sent to WELT)

A very small patch was located in a small overhanging bank near the small stream in the main ravine on the eastern side of the peak. Plants correspond to the H. australe form collected sparingly elsewhere in the North Island (noted on nearby Pirongia in January 1986 by the author, the Gudex Pirongia specimen in WAI is H. sanguinolentum). This fern is very local in the western Waikato, with the frond form of H. flexuosum but lacking the flexuous, wavy, crisped wing characteristic of that species. The typical, narrow atrovirens frond form common at Wairere Falls S. R. has yet to be found in the western Waikato.

Received 20 October 1986.

"NATIVE VASCULAR FLORA OF THE WAITAKERE RANGE" : ADDITIONS

R.O. Gardner

Gnaphalium delicatum Esler 27.12.84, Smythe Ridge track, AK 170743,-4.

Hydrocotyle pterocarpa Esler 30.12.83, Cornwallis, AK 170724.

Ranunculus urvilleanus Ball 4.1885, AKU 2937, no other Waitakere Range collections at AK, AKU.

Juncus pallidus two AK collections, the older dating from 1966.

Nertera setulosa is reported by Mark Bellingham for Matuku Reserve and Eleocharis neozelandica for Whatipu by Alan Esler (Proc. N.Z. Ecol. Soc. 21:75 1974); I have not seen specimens.

Received 15 December 1986.