

Naturalised black she-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) at Silverdale

Mike Wilcox

On 12 June 1972 Alan Esler and Sandra Astridge collected a specimen of *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Salisb.) L. Johnson (AK 217331) from *Acacia* plantations at the property of Frank Bartlett, "Bankside", Silverdale. This record was subsequently mentioned in Webb et al. (1988) as the only collection in New Zealand at that time. On a recent study of the site in June 2005 I found *Allocasuarina littoralis* to be abundantly naturalised over several hectares of the Bartlett forest (now owned by Cabra Developments Ltd, Orewa) as an understorey in mixed stands of *Eucalyptus pilularis* and *Acacia melanoxylon*, and extending down to the mangrove fringes of the Orewa River. It grows there into a small tree up to 12 m tall and 16 cm in diameter, and bears abundant seed, which judging from the prolific regeneration, has been spreading freely for many years, from the original planted source over a period of at least 100 years (Anon. 1961). The bark is somewhat corky but markedly less so than the fairly commonly cultivated forest she-oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*).

Webb et al. (1988) indicate that *Allocasuarina littoralis* is a monoecious shrub, but this Silverdale population is dioecious, the separate male and female plants being obvious in June, the males bearing numerous very slender pollen catkins, and the females with mature cones and prominent red-styled flowers.

Allocasuarina littoralis is native to eastern Australia where it grows on mostly coastal country from Tasmania to Queensland (Wilson & Johnson 1989).

Acknowledgements

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References

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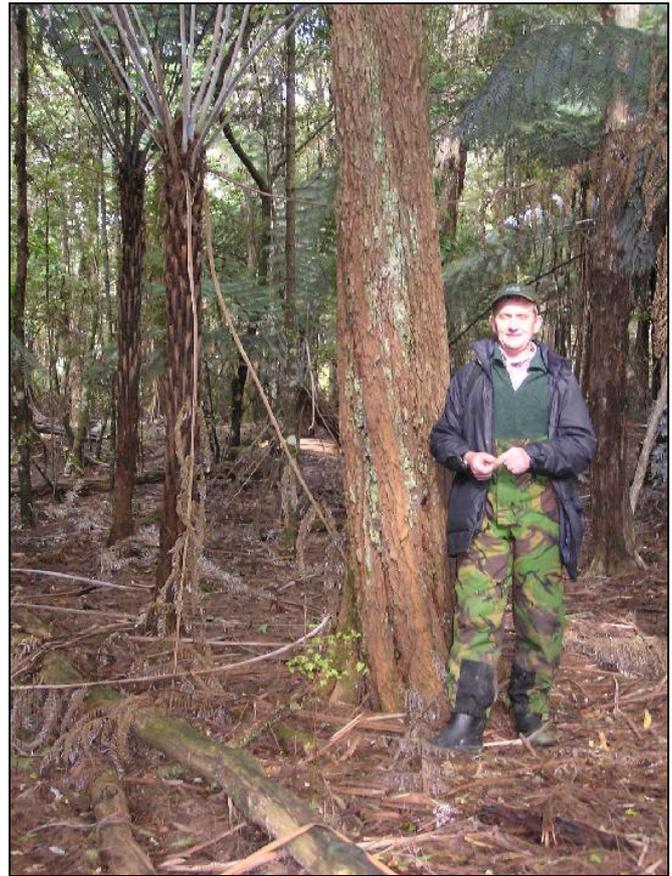


Figure 1: Chis Inglis beside a tree of *Allocasuarina littoralis*, Bartlett's Forest.

Clivia gardenii wild on Kawau Island

Mike Wilcox

The genus *Clivia* belongs to the family Amaryllidaceae in the order Asparagales, and comes from southern Africa. The Amaryllidaceae are usually bulbous herbs that can be recognised by their rather fleshy and 2-ranked leaves and their scapose umbellate inflorescence of generally large flowers with an inferior ovary. *Clivia* is one of the more primitive genera of the Amaryllidaceae and is in the tribe Haemantheae. These have neither bulbs nor rhizomes, but possess an abundance of thick rope-like roots. They are

evergreen, and have predominantly orange, red or salmon coloured flowers.

There are six species of *Clivia*, which typically grow in the cool shade of forest. The best known is the bush lily (*Clivia miniata* (Lindl.) Regel) – very commonly cultivated in Auckland gardens, with large, upright orange flowers in spring (August-October). Eastern Cape clivia (*Clivia nobilis* Lindl.) is the type species, and found in the eastern Cape Province under

evergreen forest on coastal sand sites. The inflorescence consists of an umbel of 20-60 flowers borne on a peduncle about 300 mm long. The tubular, pendulous flowers are dark orange with green tips, but vary from pinkish yellow to dark red. *Clivia mirabilis* Rourke, only described in 2002, is unusual in that it is found on dry sites. *Clivia caulescens* R.A.Dyer is one of the rarer species. The other two species are swamp clivia or Pondoland clivia (*Clivia robusta* B.G.Murray, et al) described in 2004, and it's smaller cousin, Major Garden's clivia (*Clivia gardenii* Hook.), which is the subject of this article.



Fig 1. *Clivia gardenii*, Kawau Island, 31 May 2005

Clivia gardenii is cultivated in Auckland by *Clivia* enthusiasts, and it is represented in the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Keith Hammett has made a hybrid, 'Winter Glory' by crossing *C. miniata* x *C. gardenii*, flowering June-July. The flowers of *Clivia gardenii* appear in late autumn/early winter and are pendulous, orange in colour, the petals tipped with green, and stigma and stamens strongly exserted. The bright red fleshy berries follow the flowers and are eaten by birds.



Fig 2. *Clivia gardenii*, Kawau Island, 31 May 2005

On 31 May 2005 I found *Clivia gardenii* at Mansion House Bay, Kawau Island. It was growing in colonies under pines, not far from the Mansion House, but far enough to suggest the plants were wild (AK 294269).



Fig 3. *Clivia gardenii* fruit, Auckland Botanic Gardens, 4 June 2005

The genus *Furcraea* (Agavaceae) in the Auckland region

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This article was prompted by observations of *Furcraea* growing wild on Kawau Island and in Scandrett Regional Park, Rodney District. Flora of New Zealand Vol III (Healy and Edgar 1980) mentions the wild populations of Mauritius hemp (*Furcraea foetida* (L.) Haw.) on Kawau Island, and so does Gardner (1993), pointing out that both smooth-leaved and spiny-leaved plants are found. Buchanan (1876) mentions that Sir George Grey introduced *Furcraea* to Kawau Island, probably to trial as a source of commercial fibre. Interestingly, Buchanan mentions two species on

Kawau – *Fourcroyia gigantea* (now *Furcraea foetida*), and *Fourcroyia flavavirides* (now *Furcraea selloa* K.Koch). It is my contention that there are two species on Kawau – *Furcraea foetida* and *F. selloa*, and that *F. selloa* also grows wild quite extensively on the headland at Scandrett Regional Park.

The genus *Furcraea* is in the family Agavaceae (order Asparagales), which also includes *Agave*, *Arthropodium*, *Beschornea*, *Chlorophyton*, *Herpolirion*, *Hosta*, *Yucca*, and several other genera. *Furcraea*