

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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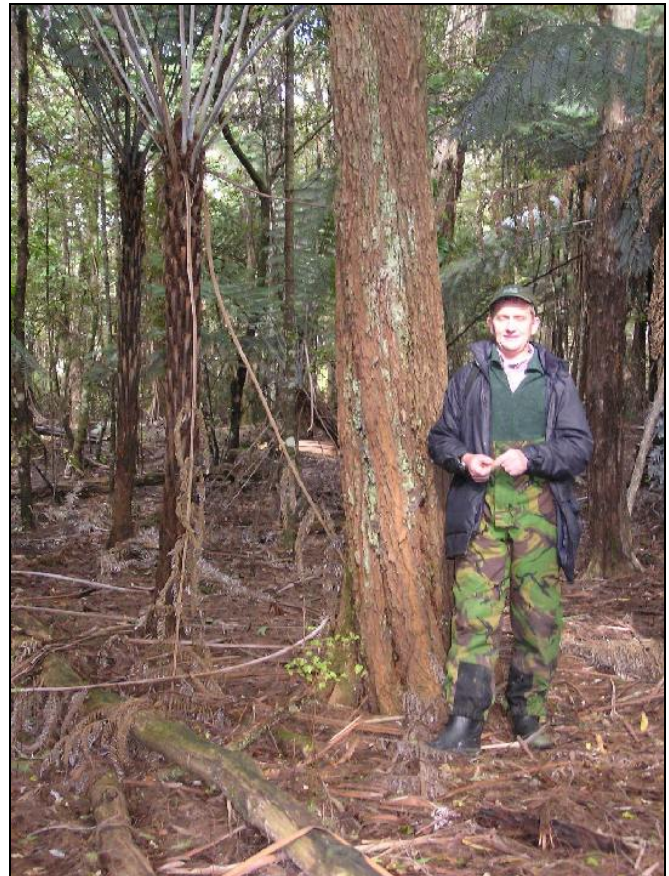


Figure 1: Chis Inglis beside a tree of *Allocasuarina littoralis*, Bartlett's Forest.

Clivia gardenii wild on Kawau Island

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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