

in a moist gully, revealing *Diplazium australe* and *Deparia petersenii* subsp. *congrua*, two species that most of us had rarely encountered.



**Figure 6** Puriri Preservation Covenant. The cool and humid ridge top supported abundant ferns & epiphytes (photo Miles Giller).

## **DAY 4 TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2016**

### **BLUMINE ISLAND**

**Paul Maurice**

Two gun emplacements were built on Blumine Island in 1942 to provide protection for a secure anchorage for the US Navy in Queen Charlotte Sound. The feared Japanese invasion did not materialise and the batteries were formally disestablished in December 1945. The island is now a 337 ha predator-free Scenic Reserve administered by DoC. South Island saddleback were translocated to the island in 2009, three pairs of non-breeding rowi (a rare kiwi) in 2010, and orange-fronted parakeets in 2011 and 2012.

We explored the steep, densely wooded slopes on the south-eastern side of the island (Figs. 7, 8, p. 75), eventually reaching the ridge which led to the highest point at approximately 270 m. The native vascular plants seen are listed (Table 1, p. 78). Of particular interest was the *Adiantum fulvum* cleverly spotted by Gillian as we were descending a rather dark and very steep slope, clearly differing from the commoner *Adiantum cunninghamii* by the midribs of



the primary pinnae being hairy. Colin did some botanising on the shore while we were awaiting our boat and came up with a list of species including the exotics *Centaurium erythraea*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Trifolium dubium*, *Sonchus oleraceus* and *Spergularia rubra*.



**Figure 7** Blumine Island. Tall sparse kiekie under a canopy of nikau, kohekohe, titoki and tawa (photo Miles Giller).



**Figure 8** The characteristic fruit of kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) (photo Paul Maurice).



There was some evidence of recent ringbarking of fivefinger trees by deer (both tooth and antler damage) and, indeed, there was a report in *The Press* in August 2010 of a stag seen swimming in Queen Charlotte Sound about 1 km from the shore. In one area, young five-fingers had been well browsed by deer. Rat and mustelid traps were noted, as well as wax-tags, which indicate the presence of possums by bite marks.

One matai with a trunk diameter of 113 cm was admired, as well as a colony of about twelve mature hard beech trees on the ridge, which were seeding well.

Grateful thanks are due to Arthur for getting us to and from the island in his boat.

**DAY 5 WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**PURIRI PRESERVATION QEII COVENANT REVISITED**  
**Miles Giller**

Several of us were disappointed that we had not been able to spend more time on the top ridgeline of Puriri Preservation Covenant on Day 3. Thus a small group of us defied a dodgy weather forecast and headed back up there two days later.

Our main route ascended up a dry rock-strewn gully (Fig. 9) with precious little understorey or groundcover apart from the scrambling fern *Blechnum filiforme*, albeit hemmed in on either side by intimidating tangles of kiekie



**Figure 9** Puriri Preservation Covenant. A rubble-strewn gully provided the clearest route to the ridge top (photo Miles Giller).