PSEUDOWINTERA IN NORTHLAND

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In reply to Lucy Moore's article (Ak. Bot. Soc. Newsletter Jan. 1983). Yes, horopito is present in the Far North and also in many other parts of Northland.

Horopito is however an uncommon shrub in Northland. It usually occurs either as single plants or in groves of half a dozen or so plants. It seldom attains great height. The largest we have seen is in an eastern Te Paki forest remnant (E.K.C.). It was east of Pandora Road and some 8 m tall with two seedlings close by in mahoe/puriri/kohekohe/pidgeonwood forest, February 1984 (N1 & 2* c. 245467 c. 150 m). Voucher+ AKU 15974. = AK 273150

P. axillaris has been observed in several other major forests in Northland, including:

(a) Kaihu Forest, Hobson County (P.J.B.)
  (i) Near Tutamoe Trig under tawari/southern rata/rimu/towai forest (N19 318915 c. 735 m) February 1894.
  (ii) Tutamoe Plateau above Awakino Stream under rimu/towai/tawari forest (c. N19 290927 c. 660m) April 1984.

(b) Marlborough Forest, Hobson County (P.J.B)
  Tutamoe Range west of Kaimaro Stream under towai/makamaka/tawari canopy (c. N19 268012 c. 555 m) November 1983.

(c) Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, Hokianga County (P.J.B.)
  (i) Track to Yakas Kauri under kauri/taraire/kohekohe forest (N18 087076 c. 330 m) February 1984.
  (ii) Near the MacGregor Kauri, north of Toronui Stream under kauri/taraire/kohekohe forest (N18 587076 c. 330 m) March 1984.

(d) Waima Forest, Hokianga County (P.J.B)
  Leading ridge to Ngapukehaua trig under towai/kohekohe taraire/mangeao forest (N14 067234 c. 360 m) August 1984.

(e) Warawara Forest, Hokianga County (P.J.B)
  North Moetangi basin near the Ward Kauri, under dense tall kauri with podocarp/tawari/towai subcanopy (N14 830337 c. 420 m) March 1984.

(f) Tangihua Forest, Hobson County (P.J.B.)
  Main Tangihua Range crest, near Tangihua trig. Under Quintinia serrata/Olearia furfuracea/Griselinia littoralis forest. (N23 613802 c. 570 m) Voucher AK 168152 August 1984.

(g) Russell Forest, Bay of Islands County (P.J.B.)
  Upper Waikare basin, under regenerating kauri/tanekaha/towai canopy (N16 759363 c. 225 m) June 1984.

(h) Manaia Ridge, east Whangarei (E.K.C.)
  On top of the forested ridge, as an understorey shrub (N24 027871 c. 320 m) Voucher AKU 15341 September 1983.
  ≃ AK 272590

P. axillaris also occurs on two of the Hauraki Gulf Islands; Great and Little Barrier. Voucher for the latter, AK 154926, August 1981. On Great Barrier it is locally frequent in the vicinity of Mt Hobson as a small shrub, and there is a large specimen, some 7 m tall, on the northern side of the main valley west of Mt Hobson, adjacent to the summit track.

In view of the lack of recent Northland records, it is possible that P. axillaris has been overlooked and in some instances may have been confused with Alseuosmia x quercifolia. Plants of the hybrid Alseuosmia collected on the slopes of Mount Panguru (Hokianga County) (N14 882400 c. 300 m) (AK 165021) bore a remarkable resemblance to P. axillaris.

A much rarer plant than P. axillaris in Northland is its cousin P. colorata. The late G.B. Rawlings (1972) collected this plant from the north-east corner of Waipoua Forest Sanctuary. Numerous trips onto the Tutameoe Range by one of us (P.J.B.) have never located this plant, and it must be very rare in Northland. Rawlings also found nearby Leptopteris suberba, which is a truly surprising record. Relocation or discovery of new localities for either of these species in Northland would be a joy for any botanist.

Vink (1970) apart from illustrating 6 Northland sites for P. axillaris, in various forms, also shows 2 for P. colorata; one at Waipoua (Rawlings record?) and the other by Kaitaia. P. colorata is also known from three plants discovered by R.O. Gardner in broadleaf forest, southern Great Barrier (AK 151762, NZMS 259 c. 768662 c. 200 m) April 1980.

Vink noted that 20% of the herbarium specimens he examined showed combinations of characters of both P. axillaris and P. colorata. He also showed a hybrid record on his map from Herekino Forest. Sampson (1980), casts caution on whether the 2 species do in fact hybridise. He also points out that considerable pollination in P. colorata is carried out by thrips. Godley and Smith (1976) have shown that P. colorata plants are almost completely self-incompatible.

Coupled with the fact that P. colorata appears to require a cool climate, these other features possibly make it difficult for P. colorata to establish new populations long distances northwards from existing communities. Although the seeds are bird dispersed, a self-compatible, wind pollinated plant would stand a much better chance of reproducing from the establishment of a single isolated plant.

* Unless otherwise stated all map references are NZMS 1, followed by the altitude above sea level.

\+ Vouchers are lodged in the herbaria of the Auckland Institute and Museum (AK) and the University of Auckland, Botany Department (AKU).

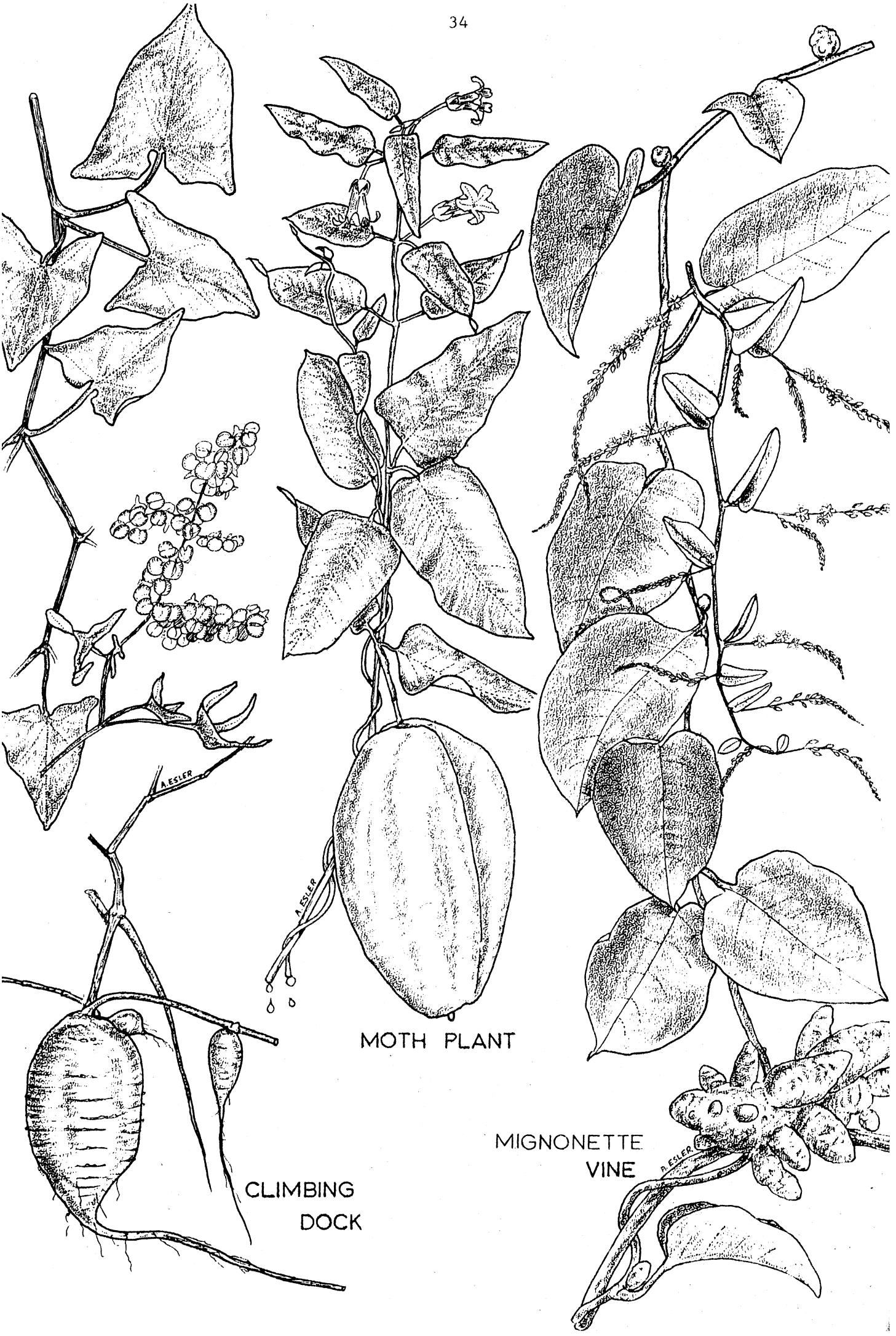
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CLIMBING DOCK
MOTH PLANT
MIGNONETTE VINE