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## *Doodia aspera* R. Br. at Tom Bowling Bay

Maureen Young

The Australia fern *Doodia aspera* has been recorded from 3 sites in New Zealand - from near North Cape, from Kawakawa, and from Chelsea, near Auckland. However, Catherine Wilson and David Given in their book "Threatened Plants of New Zealand", concluded that there were possibly no wild populations remaining in New Zealand.

On 5 July 1990, while Frank Hudson and I were returning from a walk to North Cape, a patch of *Doodia* growing under a stunted manuka bush caught my eye, as several of the fronds possessed a curiously crested apex. Rapidly approaching darkness meant that there was no time to check the extent of the population, but the patch seen covered an area c. 1 metre square, and looked very healthy. It was situated on the western side of the Waitangi Stream, Tom Bowling Bay.

Patrick Brownsey has confirmed my suspicion that this fern is *Doodia aspera*, originally found by Carse, also at Tom Bowling Bay.

Voucher specimens have been deposited in AK, CHR, WELT.

FOOTNOTE "Tom Bowling" was the European name given to a young Maori chief, by the crew of a whaler on which he sailed. At the close of his whaling career he settled with his wife and four daughters on the shore of New Zealand's most northerly bay, to which he gave his name. (The story of Northland - A.H. Reed)

Cheeseman (Manual of the New Zealand Flora) spells the name "Tom Bowline", which certainly has a more nautical ring to it. Which spelling is correct is now probably lost in the mists of time, but Tom Bowling seems to be firmly established as the favourite.

### Seeds and Stones

R.O. Gardner

#### A. *Syzygium australe*

Left: Seed, coat peeled back to show the single embryo. x 4

Right: Embryo, front cotyledon cut to show shoot tip (t). x 4

#### B. *Syzygium paniculatum* (Myrtaceae)

Left: Seed, coat peeled back to show the numerous embryos. x 4

Right: Embryo, the two cotyledons very unequal. x 6

#### C. *Waterhousea floribunda* (*Syzygium floribunda*)

Fruit (dry), cut vertically to show the very thin layer of flesh and cotyledons with dark intrusive structure. x 3