

Lianes

Muehlenbeckia complexa

Parsonsia sp.

Monocots

Carex flagellifera

Cordyline australis

C. lambertiana

Oplismenus imbecillus

C. solandri

Rhopalostylis sapida

C. spinirostris

Uncinia uncinata

Collospermum hastatum

## REFERENCES

- Gardner, R.O. 1981. Some species lists of native plants of the Auckland region. Tane 27: 169-174.
- Sayers, R. and Dumbleton, E. 1973. "Takapuna Jubilee 1913-1973." Takapuna City Council.
- Titchener, P. 1976. In 'North Shore Times Advertiser' December 6.

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## FRUITLESS KARAKA

Lucy B. Moore

In an old garden in Warkworth a karaka tree grows in a shrubbery. It is probably 20 to 40 years old and it may have been planted or perhaps it came with the birds, as taraire, nikau, pigeonwood, &c. come now. Leafy branches clothe the whole tree from ground level to its tip at 7 metres or so. It flowers quite freely, at least round about eye height but there is no record of its ever having set fruit — certainly not in the last seven years when I have lived beside it.

Flowers seem to be perfectly formed, with androecium and gynoecium both well developed, an observation confirmed by Dr Eric Godley who also reported that staining showed that pollen is 99% good. I have not noted any other karaka tree close by but in spring of 1984 I brought flowering branches from a fruiting tree in a small grove some 2 km distant. Several panicles were roughly brushed together and the imported ones, in jars of water, were hung nearby. On the "pollinated" panicles a few ovaries swelled but none grew to as much as a centimetre long.

Some karaka trees produce fruit regularly and usually in quantity but are there others that never do? Dr Godley writes of "a single and isolated karaka outside the Otago Museum which regularly produces good fruit and seedlings".

Botanical Society members might like to enlist as Karaka Watchers, especially in those suburbs of Auckland where these trees have been used for street planting.

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