



GuideLines

Number 354 – Wednesday 21st February 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

Kohekohe (*Didymocheton spectabilis*) now has new bud bearing stalks emerging from tree trunks and branches. This is called cauliflory (stem flowers) a feature frequently seen in trees which form the lower canopy in tropical forests. The buds will develop over the next couple of months when there will be a spectacular display of sprays of small white flowers.



*Kohekohe with
new bud
bearing stalks*

Pōhuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complexa var. complexa*). Also known as wire vine it belongs in the dock family, Polygonaceae. Pōhuehue is dioecious. Vines with female flowers form fruit from their tepals (undifferentiated petals). The fleshy tepals surround a small black seed. This succulent fruit was eaten by Māori, especially children as it is sweet and juicy. Many birds also eat the fruit. Pōhuehue is an important host for the caterpillar stage of many of our native moths and butterflies as well as a variety of other small insects.

*Pohuehue
with tiny*



*Pōhuehue fruit;
succulent tepals
around black seed*

Tawāpou (*Planchonella costata*). The green fruit on the labelled tree by Wharf Dam now has fruit beginning to ripen. In the next few weeks they will make an attractive sight.



Tawapou fruit colouring