

Lopidium concinnum (Hook.) Wils.
Macromitrium longipes (Hook.) Schwaegr.*
M. prorepens (Hook.) Schwaegr.*
Porotrichum oblongifolium (Hook.f. & Wils.) Broth.*
Ptychomnion aciculare (Brid.) Mitt.
Racopilum convolutaceum (C. Muell.) Reichdt.
Rhizogonium bifarium (Hook.) Schimp.*
R. novae-hollandiae (Brid.) Brid.
Sematophyllum amoenum (Hedw.) Mitt.
Tayloria callophylla (C. Muell.) Mitt.*
Thuidium furfurosum (Hook.f. & Wils.) Reichdt.
Wijkia extenuata (Brid.) Crum
Zygodon intermedius B.S.G.*

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MATUA-KUMARA

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Jim Beever's "Dictionary" (1987) is a mighty contribution to ethnobotany and will be particularly useful to historians and their botanical advisors. For my part I should like to attempt to expiate a blunder concerning Maori names in Sonchus (Gardner 1985) by noting one entry that I believe misinforms.

The name matua-kuumara (lit. "father of the kumara") is given for Geranium australe or its root. This species, correctly called G. homeanum is almost certainly adventive to N.Z. (Gardner 1984), and the Maori name would seem properly to belong to the two native species, G. solandri and G. retrorsum, which unlike G. homeanum have a swollen fleshy root. Colenso (cited by Crowe 1981) described matua-kuumara as a weed of Maori gardens, its spring flowering indicating the time to plant kumara, and hence its name. The radish-shaped root would I think also have suggested a sympathetic association between geranium and kumara.

Banks and Solander got G. solanderi and G. retrorsum at various places, but not matua-kuumara; instead (for G. solanderi only) their manuscript N.Z. Flora has the name pugupugu, which as pukupuku would seem to be another reference to the swollen root. This name was also given on a D'Urville collection of G. solanderi.

A potentially very useful source of Geranium names is the collection of the Austrian traveller Baron Karl von Huegal, who visited the Bay of Islands in 1834 (about the time G. homeanum was first found). He is said to have got several hundred species and checked the names using various informants (Yate 1835, p. 229). These plants, which I have not seen, are in W (Vienna).

REFERENCES

Beever, J. 1987. "A Dictionary of Maori Plant Names". Auck. Bot. Soc. Bull. 16.

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NEXT EDITION

Articles for the July 1988 edition should be sent to the editor before 10 June; several articles have been held over for the next edition.