

APPENDIX III

Method of describing the vegetation

The vegetation was described using a method modified from Druce (1959). The technique is described here as it provided a quick semi-quantitative assessment and so may be useful to others with similar needs.

Up to seven structural layers were described from the area within about 30 metres of each counting point: upper canopy (usually emergent), lower canopy (usually semi-continuous), subcanopy, upper shrub understorey, lower shrub understorey, ground layer, and epiphytes. The percentage ground cover (for epiphytes the percentage cover of trunks and branches) provided by each layer, and the percentage of each layer's total cover provided by each species, were estimated and categorised into one of five classes. These categories were noted with a shorthand consisting of various line rulings, as follows:

over 75%; 50-75%; 25-50%; 5-25%; and less than 5%

The appropriate line symbolising each layer's percentage cover was placed vertically beside its species list, and each species name was also underlined to indicate its percentage contribution to the layer's total. For example:

Canopy	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 100px; border-left: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Red beech</u> <u>miro</u> hard beech silver beech </div>
Subcanopy	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 100px; border-left: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Silver beech</u> hard beech kamahi </div>

To summarise the data, we considered the average ground cover provided by each canopy layer and by each species in each layer. For example, if the canopy gave 50-75% (average 62.5%) ground cover and miro was estimated to comprise 25-50% (average 37.5%) of the canopy, we estimated the ground cover provided by canopy miro as 37.5% of 62.5%, which is 23%. The data for Figure 2 were obtained by averaging such percentages over the 10 counting points in each area and grouping two pairs of structural layers — the upper and lower canopy, and the subcanopy and upper understorey. The data for Figure 3 were the totals of those used for Figure 2.

DRUCE, A. P. 1959. An empirical method of describing stands of vegetation. *Tuatara* 8: 1-12.



SHORT NOTE

LEACH'S FORK-TAILED STORM PETREL

A specimen of Leach's Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) was found in a farm paddock at Turangaomoana, near Waharoa, Waikato, after a storm on 19 April 1978, and is now in the collection of the Auckland War Memorial Museum (A.M. No. AV 1283.3).

The plumage is normal for this species but there are faded pale brown feathers on the forehead and secondaries. The rump is white, almost completely divided by dark feathering, the only white in the central area being supplied by a 4 mm fringe on two dark feathers. The only previous record for New Zealand was in 1922.

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