

Ngutu-parore is rather lazy about nest building. The only effort the female makes is to scratch a small hollow in the sand in the shelter of a large stone and surround it with a few pebbles. Two pale grey eggs tinged with blue and

green with dark spots are laid. The chicks leave the nest the day after hatching and toddle after their parents. They can swim within a few days.

By the end of February the wrybills have all departed to spend the winter in the North

Island. Between April and August their favourite haunts are the Firth of Thames and the Kaipara and Manukau Harbours. I have also seen a few at Foxton, on the Manawatu Estuary, usually in the company of banded dotterels. ■

New Zealand plants

By
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Lancewood

Lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolium*) grows to 15 m high. It progresses from a juvenile to an adult tree through several stages, being most conspicuous when half grown, with the long, thin, stiff leaves still deflexed as in a partly open umbrella. The juvenile form remains for from 15 to 20 years.

The leaves in all stages have an attractive raised coloured midrib. The bark is grey, and the leaves and wood have a pleasant smell. The wood is durable and is used for fence posts and piles. The tree is drought and wind resistant.

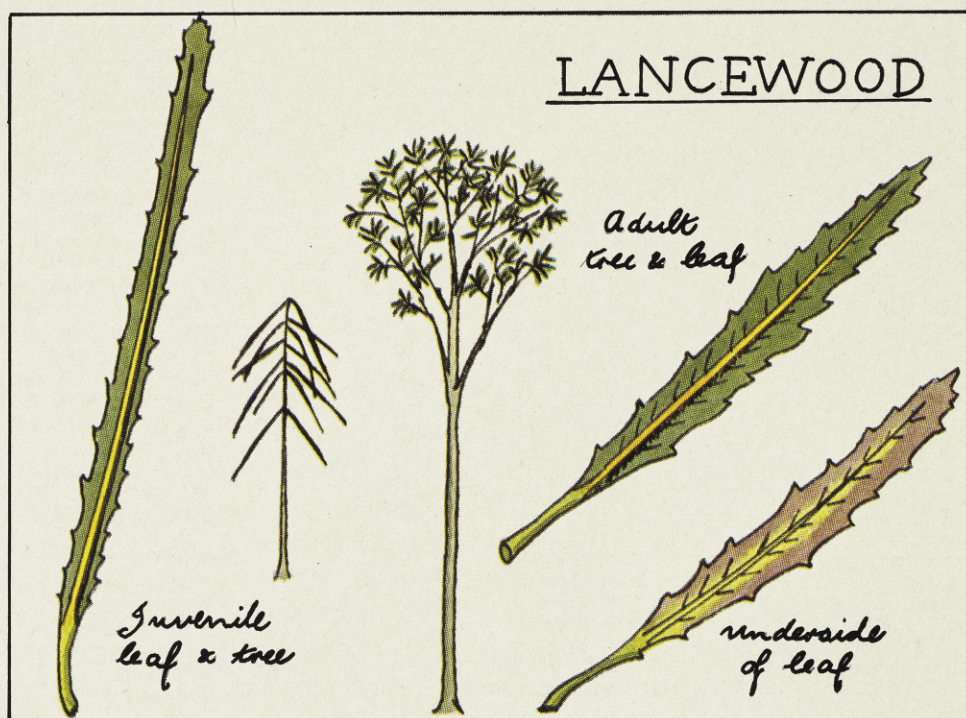
The Maori name of lancewood is horoeka.

Titoki

The buds, young shoots, leaf stalks, flower panicles, and seed capsules of titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) are covered with dense rust-coloured down. The black, shiny seeds are set in a scarlet fleshy cup and take about a year to ripen; they are much sought after by the possum.

The smooth bark is a dark grey, and many trunks have elongated surface hollows.

The titoki, which reaches 15 m in height, is found in



coastal and lowland forests up to an altitude of 600 m. Its timber is a light reddish brown

and was used by wheelwrights for coachbuilding, bullock yokes, and tool handles.