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Re. *Ileostylus micranthus* at Station Bush, Martinborough, grid S27.192.022.

On 19.05.97 D. Fastier and I came across what appears to be the largest and probably healthiest population of the mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus* in the Wairarapa.

The mistletoe grow on the divaricated shrubs of *Coprosma propinqua* and *C. crassifolia*. The total number of individual *I. micranthus* plants is over 100 plants, perhaps even a few hundred, as most of the mistletoe plants are tiny, non flowering/fruited. Individual host shrubs could have 40 *I. micranthus* plants or more.

The site is at the end of Riverside Road, Martinborough, near Station Bush homestead (but on land owned by the neighbouring farmer Mr Blundell).

The site is approx. 400x150 m on a west facing slope on the eastern side of the Ruamahanga River, grid S27.192.022 (centre of the site).

The paddock is grazed by sheep, and has an extensive vegetation of *Muehlenbeckia complexa* (forming "islands" in the paddock, good lizard habitat, confirmed by Mr Smith at Station Bush). Rock bluffs are present at the top of the slope.

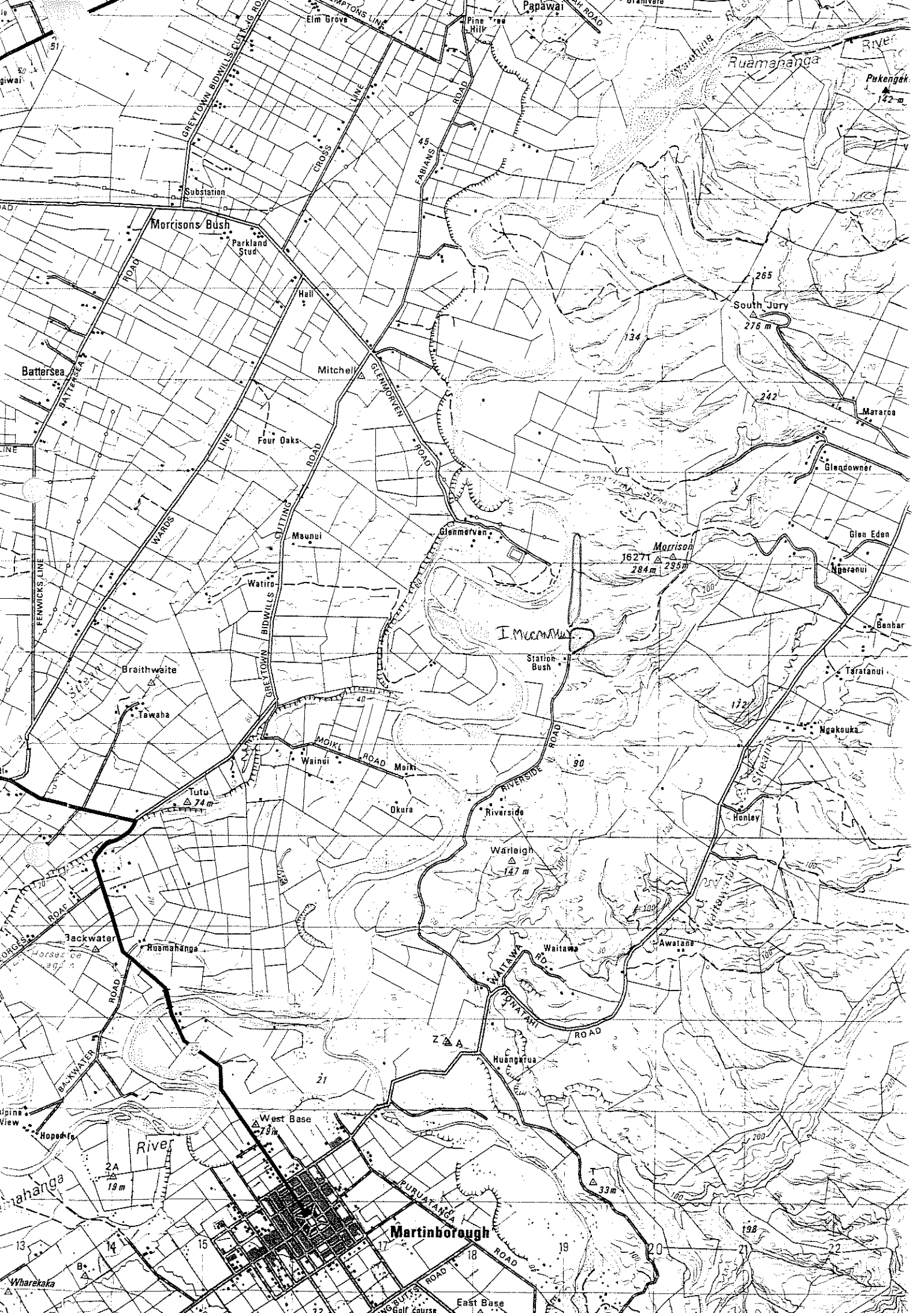
Other plants on the hill slope include kanuka, *M. australis*, kowhai, titoki and cabbage tree.

I have taken some photos of the site, and informed Mrs Blundell about the mistletoe (she reacted very enthusiastic).

I inspected the side of the Ruamahanga River, at grid S27.191.029, for *Pittosporum obcordatum* (without luck). The following trees and shrubs were found (area grazed by cattle and sheep):

<i>Ileostylus micranthus</i>	mistletoe
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydoides</i>	kahikatea
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	
<i>C. crassifolia</i>	
<i>C. propinqua</i>	
<i>C. rhamnoides</i>	
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicope simplex</i>	
<i>M. ramiflorus</i>	
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo
<i>M. divaricata</i>	weeping matipo
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>N. montana</i>	oro-oro
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	kowhai
<i>Metrosideros colensoi</i>	rata
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	
<i>M. complexa</i>	
<i>Parsonsia</i> spp.	NZ jasmine
<i>Rubus schmideloides</i>	bush lawyer
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack

Aalbert Rebergen  
Conservation Officer  
DOC Masterton



Addition:

The large divaricating shrubs, seen in early May from across the river, were all *Coprosma crassifolia*.

Main vegetation of the forest: titoki, kanuka and *C. crassifolia*.

A large number of the larger trees, including matai, totara and titoki have orange dots painted on them.

Action: find out what this means.

Station Bush owners: Bob and Barbara Smith, 06.3069445, son Tim Smith 06.3069532.

Blue on the map: area with mistletoe (*I. micranthus*).

Yellow on the map: forest remnant next to the river (on the flat).