



KAKABEAK

(*Clianthus puniceus*)
(Kowhai ngutu-kaka)

UNDERSTORY

2m



Description:

- An endangered plant, there are two endemic species in NZ. *Clianthus puniceus* and *Clianthus maximus*. Both are to be found on drier forest margins and once established they are quite hardy
- The leaves are a line of leaflet pairs
- Having been devastated by pests and animal grazing, wild specimens are now confined to a few plants on isolated islands in the Kaipara Harbour

Fruit & Flowers:

- Spectacular red flowers have probably been their saving. They have been propagated by NZ gardeners
- The flowers hang in clusters. They do not produce large amounts of nectar like the kowhai. While birds assist with pollination, kakabeak flowers are mainly self pollinating
- Black seeds, to be found in hanging pods, do not have the tough seed coats of the similar kowhai. Therefore they are more easily germinated

Pests /Diseases:

- It is kakabeak's vulnerability to leaf miner, slugs and snails that causes it to be so rare. Mites can cause localised growths called galls