



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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INTERIM LIST OF MOA SPECIES IDENTIFIED FROM
NORTH ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Ron Scarlett

This interim list is published at the request of the Editor. It arose out of a paper I gave at the Science Congress 1962. It will rapidly become out of date as further work is done, or at any rate I hope so. I hope later to be able to make, for some sites, an estimate of the relative numbers of the species present.

A question mark indicates that the bone is probably of the species indicated, but was too fragmentary or worn for absolute certainty.

Most of the identifications are by myself, with the obvious exception of Mantell's bones. Dr. A. G. Buist identified, by direct comparison, the Pachyornis from Kaupokonui, John Yaldwyn and I both worked on Buist's bones from Ohawe, and we both identified the bones from Tairua and Yaldwyn is responsible for the Te Ika a Maru and Makara identifications. I have seen the Dinornis hercules bone from Makara. It is included here with giganteus because hercules, the bow-legged form which Dr. W.R.B. Oliver separated from the straight-legged giganteus, is still too little known for one to be certain that it is a separate species. Moas, in any genus, were a variable lot, and hercules may simply be a form of giganteus. Also, with fragmentary tibia-tarsi, it is not always easy to say if they were "bowed" or not, and many of the identifications must be made from fragments.

In Hawkes Bay, moas are frequent in caves and rock-shelters, but only the rock-shelter on Rob Whittle's farm which he and I investigated has, so far as I know, yielded moa in association with man, although other, apparently later Maori use of the shelters is known in the area.

I have not included in this list moas from rock-shelters known to Mr. R.A.L. Batley, as I await further details.

Other midden sites with Moa fragments, unidentified:-

1. Wairarapa, near the Arawhata Stream, Weathered out, amongst drift of oven stones. Primary association probable, but not proven.
2. Taranaki, site N129/104, south of Hawera.
3. Coromandel Peninsula, near Whangawata.
4. Coromandel Peninsula, Whiritoa.
5. Coromandel Peninsula, Hotwater Beach (two adjacent middens)

