

## Pukenui Forest Ranger Report 11 Nov 2021



*Figure 1: Basket fungi (Ileodictyon cirabarium)*

## Trapping

November is here and the weather is having a hard time making up its mind on what its doing. As the weather begins to warm, we are moving to fortnightly trapping, mammals are on the move, our rats caught have jumped compared to this time last year and hedgehogs on the buffer are stirring. Bevan has had some interesting catches on the red line finding rabbits in his mustelid traps. There appears to be a boom in the rabbit population on the surrounding farmland around James Road off Three Mile Bush Road. This may potentially create a rise in mustelid numbers as rabbit is one of their preferred prey species. However, our volley trapper Mark Dudley has shown interest in going out and shooting the rabbits which would be a big help not only reducing numbers but also providing bait for our traps.

As for the audit NRC were to carry out on our traplines at this stage they have put it on hold.

### ***Pest summary to date:***

MONTH	WEASEL	STOAT	RAT	CAT	HEDGEHOG	POSSUM	FERRET	OTHER	SET OFF
JANUARY	0	3	28	4	7	4	0	1	0
FEBRUARY	0	1	21	0	3	1	0	0	0
MARCH	1	3	26	1	0	1	0	0	0
APRIL	2	2	40	0	1	0	0	0	3
MAY	1	0	52	2	3	1	0	1	0
JUNE	1	1	62	1	3	0	0	0	3
JULY	0	1	43	2	0	0	0	0	0
AUGUST	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEPTEMBER	0	0	28	1	1	0	0	0	0
OCTOBER	0	3	47	0	0	0	0	7	0

### ***Comparison of totals compared to last year:***

PEST	THIS YEAR TO DATE	THIS TIME LAST YEAR
WEASEL	4	4
STOAT	15	36
RAT	415	319
CAT	11	1
HEDGEHOG	24	27
FERRET	0	0
<b>TOTAL PESTS</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>387</b>

## Toxin

We started the toxin operation in early October and apart from the odd rainy day it is progressing smoothly. Already there has been a lot of take from the edges of the forest however not so much from the interior observed so far. There are still a couple of blocks that need the stations lowered but this will easily be completed when we go to do the toxin on them.

*Practicum student Gurman doing toxin*



## Kiwi monitoring

It is official Morrie is sitting on an egg, with our practicum students we have located his nest within a 5-meter radius. We backed off as not to disturb him to much but will need to locate the entrance for when the chick or chicks hatch.

While walking back from Morrie's nest we picked up Barr's signal and it appears to still be transmitting an incubation signal. We will need to locate his nest but will find it in short order.

Unfortunately, Ataahua has kicked off his transmitter and it seems the signal may be coming from the direction of the gorse behind Smithville. We are hoping that it will be in the surrounding bush, but the kiwi is a crafty bugger and I suspect he's dropped it in the gorse on purpose, we shall see.