

FIGURE 14

Left Wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*). **Right** Wheki-ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*).

Both tree ferns are relatively browse-resistant. They form thickets, like the one below on the Half Chain in the central Waipaua Block, even in the presence of significant numbers of browsing animals.



FIGURE 15

Tree ferns that are more vulnerable to browsing: **Top** Ponga or Silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*); **Bottom** Gully fern (*Cyathea cunninghamii*). Gully fern is particularly sensitive. It has a close relative, Mamaku (*Cyathea ?medullaris*), whose identity is unclear. It may be one of the rarest plants endemic to the Chathams.

