

Manatu or Ribbonwood

A tree that has three stages of growth

Manatu is one of NZ's fastest growing trees and is one of 11 deciduous NZ trees. It starts off as a scrambling bush, then becomes a tall straight "teenager" and then as an "adult" tree it branches out making good stream cover. Each stage has different sized leaves – see if you can find a tree that has all three stages of growth.

The young "scrambled" form with tiny leaves occurs in a number of NZ trees. Maybe this evolved as a protection against grazing Moa.

What do you think?

