



The Taurepo. 1842? watercolour 38 × 27.6 cm. Also known as the Kaikaiatua or Matata or New Zealand gloxinia. Botanical name: *Rhabdothamnus Solandri*. Art Coll. A5.

some detective work we were able to identify the artist from a comparison of the photographs with the five botanical paintings by 'Miss King' included in Edward Jerneingham Wakefield's *Illustrations to "Adventure in New Zealand"*, issued in London in 1845.

The Royal Commonwealth Society's volume contained the largest known collection of examples of the work of Martha King, and the evidence was reasonably conclusive that the works were completed before 1845, which seems to establish Martha King as New Zealand's first resident botanical artist. (William Swainson, an obvious rival, arrived in Wellington six months later on 24 May 1841.) Martha King's only other