

***Lepidorrhachis mooreana*****Little Mountain Palm**

**Family** ARECACEAE

**Description**

A stout, dwarf palm with a trunk to 2m high.

**Conservation significance**

A monotypic genus endemic to Lord Howe Island. Protected within the Permanent Park Preserve.

**Distribution**

Confined to higher elevations in the southern mountains, mainly above 750m altitude. A conspicuous component of the Mount Gower cloud forest.

**Ecology**

Prolific seed producer.

**Population data/health**

Abundant in its range. Observations indicate that there are two distinct size classes on Mount Gower; tall mature palms, and very small

seedlings that may have only recruited since the rodent poison program began on the summit about 1987.

**Habitat**

Sheltered closed forest of the mountain summits, rarely lower.

**Threats**

Rats are known to predate heavily on the developing seeds, and also chew the stems of leaf fronds.

**References**

Green, P. S. 1994. *Flora of Australia*, Oceanic Islands 1, Vol. 49, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

Hutton, I. 2002. *A Field Guide to the Plants of Lord Howe Island*. Hutton, Lord Howe Island.