

ROCKS OF THE PACIFIC REGION

(Research Relating to Community Outreach)

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Several shaped scoria blocks are known from the Catlins and Rakiura, Southland. Basaltic scoria is not known in Southland and the question faced is whether such shaped scoria was introduced from volcanic locations elsewhere in New Zealand or whether such blocks are exotic?

If exotic to New Zealand, does the geochemical fingerprint of these blocks allow us to source such material to a secure location, most likely in Eastern Polynesia?

Current geochemical studies of these blocks disallow a New Zealand and Sub Antarctic island origin and using the chemical profile of these blocks a potential source is now being traced to Eastern Polynesia.