

# Porotiti



The porotiti is a musical instrument that was traditionally used in healing. The instrument is known by several names including kororohu, purorohu, waiora, takawaiori, and tarari. Customary uses included playing the porotiti over the congested chest of a child, as a mobility support for older adults and over the stomachs of pregnant women. Tohunga often blew on the porotiti and chanted karakia as they were spinning. Traditional porotiti were made from wood with two holes pierced near the centre. A cord was threaded through these holes and the ends tied together. The thumbs of the user were inserted through the inner loop cord and the instrument spun by pulling ropes outward.

The following is one of the poems sung to the whirring of the above instrument; it is known as a *ngariporotiti*:—

*Ka kukume,  
Ka kukume au i te tau o taku porotiti  
Ki whakaawe ki Rangi-taiki  
Ko Te Koha, ko Muru-takaka, ko Te Ahi-kaiata  
Ko Te Koroki, ko Poututu, ko Te Au-tahae  
Ka hoki mai te tau o taku porotiti  
Hu-Hu! Wheo-wheo!"*