

- 1 *Araucaria columnaris* (Araucariaceae), Maré Island. Magnificent, tall trees on the edge of the sea.
- 2 *Geissois pruinosa* (Cunoniaceae), abundant cauliflorous red flowers.
- 3 *Storckiella pancheri* (Fabaceae:Caesalpinioideae), yellow flowers, Lac en Huit.
- 4 *Xeronema moorei* (Xeronemataceae), Mt Mou, in full flower.
- 5 *Austrotaxus spicata* (Taxaceae), Plateau de Dogny, the only Taxaceae representative in the southern hemisphere.
- 6 *Argusia argentea* (Boraginaceae), Maré Island, a fine coastal tree, in flower and fruit.
- 7 *Bikkia tetrandra* (Rubiaceae), Maré Island, large white flowers.
- 8 *Arillastrum gummiferum* (Myrtaceae), Prony, in full flower - a rare event.
- 9 *Parasitaxus ustus* (Podocarpaceae), Mts Koghis, a delightful find.
- 10 *Sloanea koghienis* (Elaeocarpaceae), Mts Koghis, great buttresses and bullate leaves.
- 11 *Amborella trichopoda* (Amborellaceae), Plateau de Dogny, the world's most ancestral dicot.
- 12 *Megastylis gigas* (Orchidaceae), Mt Mou, a large white-flowered ground orchid.
- 13 *Pancheria hirsuta* (Cunoniaceae), Parc Provincial Rivière Bleue, a slender, prominent maquis shrub.
- 14 *Cerberiopsis candelabra* (Apocynaceae), Parc Provincial Rivière Bleue, in spectacular flower.
- 15 *Retrophyllum minor* (Podocarpaceae), La Chute de la Madeleine and Lac en Huit, a famous rheophytic podocarp.
- 16 *Dicksonia thysopteroides* (Cyatheaceae), Plateau de Dogny, with peculiar fertile fronds.
- 17 *Metrosideros microphylla* (Myrtaceae), Mt Mou, with brilliant red flowers.
- 18 *Agathis ovata* (Araucariaceae), Col de Yaté, a strange umbrella-shaped tree growing on ironstone.
- 19 *Hachettea austrocaledonica* (Balanophoraceae), Mt Mou, a yellow root parasite.
- 20 *Beaupreopsis paniculata* (Proteaceae), Mt Mou, a striking maquis shrub.
- 21 *Apiopetalum velutinum* (Araliaceae), Mt Mou, a spectacular shrub.
- 22 *Myodocarpus crassifolius* (Araliaceae), Mt Mou, Mts Koghis.
- 23 *Grevillea exul* subsp. *rubiginosa* (Proteaceae, Mt Mou, Mts Koghis, in full flower during our visit.
- 24 *Cycas seemannii* (syn. *C. celebica*), Turtle Beach, Bourail - the only place we saw it.

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Birds observed during Bot Soc trip in New Caledonia

Ewen K Cameron

Although the plants took all the time we could commit to them, I couldn't help but note a few birds during the 30 Nov – 11 Dec 2003 Auckland Bot Soc trip to New Caledonia (for the general trip report see Wilcox 2004). The observations were also limited by obtaining a bird reference (Doughty et al. 1999) after the trip. Areas visited were the southern part of Grande Terre

(the main island), and Maré Island of the Loyalty Group. Unless otherwise stated comments only apply to Grande Terre. For a fuller bird account of southern Grande Terre, compiled 30 Sep – 3 Oct 1998, see the account by Jan Vermeulen: (http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/new_cal/newcal4/newcal1.htm).

A. Birds different from New Zealand species

* = introduced species to New Caledonia. Scientific name supplied where there could be confusion as to which bird species is being referred to.

whistling kite – frequent, open country;

kagu – a flightless endemic, only seen in a small cage at La Fao;

black-naped tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) – south coast by Hotel Nengone on Maré;
 emerald dove – forest, Refuge de Farino;
 red-fronted or horned parakeet ? – possibly two flying by Refuge de Farino;
 glossy swiftlet – one of the commonest birds seen, throughout, including Maré;
 New Caledonia friarbird – the only large honeyeater present, forest margin Refuge de Farino;
 New Caledonian myzomela – red-headed (male), nectar feeding, forest margin Refuge de Farino & open forest
 Monts Koghis;
 yellow-sided warbler (or fan-tailed gerygone) – forest margin Refuge de Farino;
 rufous whistler – forest margin Refuge de Farino;
 New Caledonian crow – the only crow in New Caledonia, forest margin Refuge de Farino, and on Maré where it
 has been introduced;
 white-breasted woodswallow – forest margin near Refuge de Farino (on power lines) and flying near the
 entrance to Rivière Bleue;
 striated starling – several together eating fruit, forest by road and start of track to Mt Mou;
 red-bellied fruit-dove (immature) ? – single bright green bird with yellow crown & white by eye (belly not seen),
 coast forest by Hotel Nengone on Maré;
 common waxbill* – (native to Africa), small flock in dry lawn, La Fao.

B. Same bird species as occurring in New Zealand (but the birds native to New Caledonia and NZ are frequently different races):

little shag (pied form) – river near Bourail and by Nouméa;
 reef heron (dark morph) – south coast by Hotel Nengone on Maré;
 white-faced heron – by mangroves, Nouméa;
 harrier – frequent over open country;
 banded rail – roadside;
 pukeko – roadside by swamps;
 red-billed gull – Nouméa coast;
 crested tern (*Sterna bergii*) – Nouméa coast;
 spotted dove* – (native to Asia) Bourail & Nouméa;
 rainbow lorikeet – common in Nouméa and forest margins - one observed attacking *Casuarina equisetifolia*
 cones (for the seed?);
 shining cuckoo – abundantly heard in forest throughout, including Maré – its call lacked the downward note of
 the NZ race (this separate race doesn't migrate, unlike the NZ race that migrates to the Solomon Is);
 kingfisher – forest margins, including Maré;
 fantail – forest margin; Refuge de Farino and by the Tjibaou Centre;
 Indian myna* – common throughout in modified areas, especially Nouméa;
 silveryeye (*Zosterops ? lateralis*) – probably same species as in NZ, but some may have been the similar
 widespread New Caledonian endemic *Z. xanthochrous*, forest margins;
 house sparrow* – common in towns.

Notes - fruit bats were seen flying (rather bird-like) over Refuge de Farino at dusk, and small insectivorous bats were seen at night flying around a streetlight near the Refuge de Farino. No owls were heard at night.

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A Note on the Mosses of New Caledonia

Jessica Beaver

During the Auckland Botanical Society trip to New Caledonia, 30 November – 11 December 2003, opportunity was taken to explore for mosses on this interesting fragment of Gondwanaland. I concentrated mainly on two families, Fissidentaceae and Pottiaceae, but collections were also made of other mosses, and further work on the specimens will be undertaken. Specimens will be lodged in the herbarium of the Auckland Museum (AK), with duplicates in NOU.

Particularly useful literature has been the moss checklist for New Caledonia compiled by Pursell & Reese (1982) and a series of papers by Japanese *Fissidens* specialists (Iwatsuki 1982; Iwatsuki & Suzuki 1989; Iwatsuki & Suzuki 1990).

Fourteen taxa of *Fissidens* were collected. Of these, six, or possibly seven, are also recorded from New Zealand (Table 1).