

## References

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## Just for the record – additions to *Plant Life on Banks Peninsula*

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Since the publication of *Plant Life on Banks Peninsula* (Wilson 2013) three native vascular plant species, one native hybrid, and 13 more or less naturalised species not native to Banks Peninsula, have been recorded. Some have already been mentioned in earlier issues of the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal*, but I bring them all together here with notes and a few remaining doubts and queries. For most of these records, specimens are being lodged in the Allan Herbarium (CHR).

### Native species

*Bulbinella hookeri*. First recorded for Banks Peninsula in 2019 on Hinewai Reserve (Wilson 2020).

*Chionochloa rubra* (red tussock). First recorded for Banks Peninsula by David Norton in 2016 (see Wilson 2020), but both David and I wondered if the single tussock beside Te Ara Pātaka (the Peninsula's summit walkway) was a natural occurrence or had arrived as a seed on a tramper's boot. However, in November 2020 Melissa Hutchison reported a small but significant tract of ground near the top of Mount Herbert Scenic Reserve supporting many red tussocks. Not far from David's solitary tussock, Melissa's patch is well off the track and likely to be completely natural.

*Gastrodia minor* (black orchid). During and since my botanical survey of Banks Peninsula in the 1980s, I identified two black orchids, *Gastrodia cunninghamii* and *G. molloyi*, but no plants resembling *G. minor*. That was until several plants of *G. minor* appeared under a *Veronica (Hebe) strictissima* by Hinewai's old manager's house in the summer of 2016-17. None were seen the following summer, but in 2018-19 more than 40 stems appeared and flowered at the same locality, across a few square metres (one stem was several metres further away), all of them matching *G. minor*.

*Olearia bullata* x *ilicifolia* (see Wilson 2016). This unusual hybrid flowered in the Hinewai arboretum in early December 2017, and was sketched in my field notebook.

## Naturalised non-native species

*Acanthus mollis* (bear's breeches). Plants were noted along shady banks under kānuka canopy, definitely wild and spreading, garden escapees from nearby Akaroa, mid-Grehan Valley Road, May 2015.

*Anredera cordifolia* (Madeira vine). I missed noting this earlier record in Webb, Sykes and Garnock-Jones (1988). They reported only one South Island record: "semi-wild around gardens on the Port Hills, Canterbury".

*Chaenostoma cordatum* (*Sutera cordata*; bacopa). This shortly trailing, almost *Veronica*-like, blue-flowered herb was a mystery to me when I found it growing in pavement cracks along an Akaroa footpath in October 2020. I suspected it was an escape from a hanging basket along Rue Lavaud. Ines Schönberger and Ilse Breitwieser of the Allan Herbarium identified it for me, and drew my attention to an article by Trevor Partridge in the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal*, Issue 46 (Partridge 2015). As with Trevor's plants, the bacopa in Akaroa came and went, but I noticed one little plant had appeared again by early 2022, close to the earlier site.

*Coriandrum sativum* (coriander). I found a single plant, a casual among other herbaceous dicots and grasses along Old Coach Road, Akaroa, with houses nearby, in March 2014.

*Epilobium hirsutum* (giant willowherb). Biosecurity New Zealand put out a public alert around 2019 that this very tall northern hemisphere willowherb was spreading rapidly in New Zealand, including in Canterbury. In the 2019-20 summer it was reported from Holmes Stream, Pigeon Bay, for the first time on Banks Peninsula.

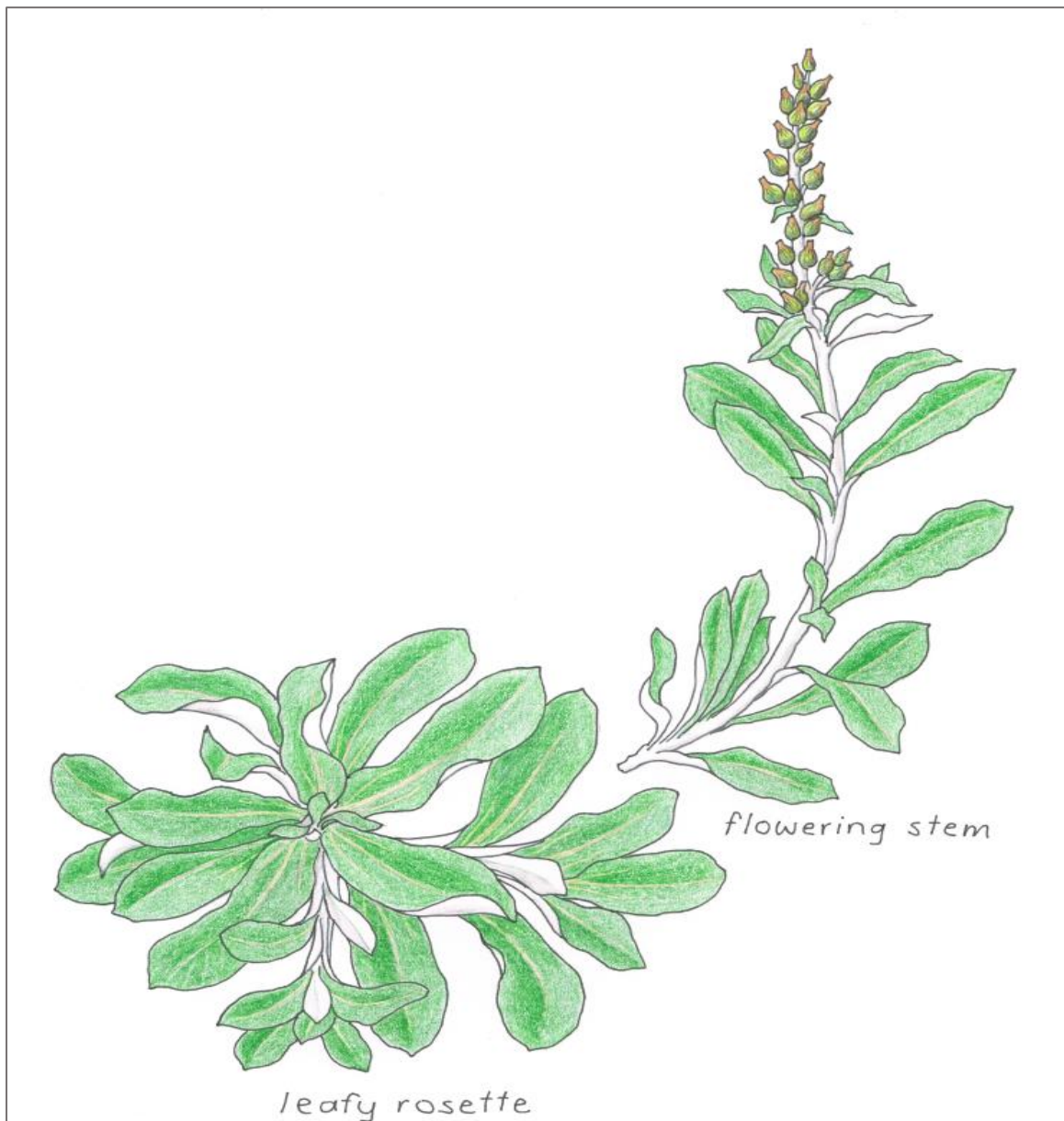
*Gamochaeta coarctata* (purple cudweed) (Fig. 1, p. 67). Familiar with purple cudweeds in the North Island and in western South Island, I first noted this species on Banks Peninsula in June 2020, growing as flattened leafy rosettes along a newly cleared vehicle access track on Shearer land, Grehan Valley, between Purple Peak Curry Reserve and Akaroa. In mid-March I noticed two more plants on the edge of a grassy road verge on Selwyn Avenue, Akaroa. This time, as there were flowering spikes, I made sketches and collected a specimen. Ines Schönberger of the Allan Herbarium kindly checked for Canterbury specimens and reported only two, one from the Rakaia River mouth, collected by H. Nielsen in December 1994, and one from Cracroft, Christchurch, collected by Ilse Breitwieser in January 2017.

*Glyceria fluitans* (floating sweet grass). *Glyceria declinata* (glaucous sweet grass) is common on Banks Peninsula; *G. plicata* (plicate sweet grass) seems to be rare and local. In January 2021, Peter Joyce of Tai Tapu Sculpture Garden brought me a *Glyceria* specimen for identification. It was invading an artificial pond, about 15 m altitude. It turned out to be my first definite identification of *G. fluitans* on Banks Peninsula.

*Nemesia ?floribunda*. Noted as a roadside casual, Akaroa, near houses.

*Pyracantha crenatoserrata* (firethorn). Katy Whyte, then the conservation manager at Oashore, brought a specimen to me for identification in August 2016. She collected it from the wild, and thought it must be a bird-dispersed garden escapee from one of the homestead gardens.

*Senecio madagascariensis* (including *S. skirrhodon*) (gravel groundsel). In my field notebook, May 2014, I had noted "one bushy specimen in full flower, beside Rail Trail, Catons Bay, Wairewa / Lake Forsyth", the first I had seen on Banks Peninsula, but common in Christchurch (see Wilson 2014). Then in January 2021: "Plant in flower on a dry bank with other weeds, top end of Rue Jolie, Akaroa" and "another plant on rural roadside, Long Bay Road near Paua Bay turnoff".



**Figure 1.** *Gamochaeta coarctata*, purple cudweed. Drawing by Hugh Wilson.

*Verbena rigida* (creeping verbena). Garden escapee, casual on roadside, Old Coach Road, Akaroa, March 2018.

*Veronica agrestis* (a speedwell). Phil Garnock-Jones drew my attention to an old record from Akaroa. A specimen collected by Arthur Healy is in the Allan Herbarium. The species seems not to have been collected or noted from Banks Peninsula before or since.

*Veronica (Hebe) bishopiana*. One bush, noted first in March 2017 (but I bike past it often and watch it flower profusely), on a high steep rural roadside bank, Long Bay Road above Akaroa, about 550 m altitude. The inaccessible site makes it highly unlikely to have been planted, but it is likely to be a garden escapee from a nearby isolated house garden. The species is endemic to the Waitakere Ranges of West Auckland.

## Uncertain

*Hierochloe fusca*. In November 2020, Melissa Hutchison alerted me to a single collection of a *Hierochloe* that seemed to key to *fusca*. This may well be true, but I am still not confident enough about *Hierochloe* taxonomy to know whether the specimen belongs to the southern and western *fusca*, or is just part of widespread *redolens*, which is common on Banks Peninsula. It would be worth following this up though, and clarifying the situation. On Rakiura / Stewart Island in the 1970s and 80s, I included *fusca* under the name *redolens*, in error if both are valid species.

## References

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