

WHENUAKURA PLAINS TRIP REPORT

29-31 January 2011

Lyneke Onderwater

We met at the car park at the start of the Waihaha Track, but some of the members who had booked didn't turn up (probably...) due to the floods in the Whakatane area. So somewhat delayed the six of us took off following Thomas our organiser and after a few stops to call in on farmers for permissions and gate keys, the trip really began... until we came across a big tree across the track... Thomas was prepared though. He donned his protective gear and promptly had the tree off our path. After a wrong turn and some rough and bumpy tracks we eventually found our way to the Whenuakura frost flat (located in the southern part of Pureora Forest Park) that was to be our base for the next few nights.

Lunch brought the first surprise. We were sitting on *Hypericum minutiflorum*, one of the plants that we had intended to look for. It has tiny reddish leaves and a minute yellow flower. That afternoon we strolled along a wide road and a narrower track. We soon came across the typical frost flat species *Coprosma virgata*, and there was lots of it. The other interesting species here (to me) were the two species of *Geranium*, *G. brevicaule* and *G. microphyllum* (the latter is not a real species; it only exists on the Subantarctic islands and the ones on the mainland are officially unnamed), *Raoulia albosericea*, *Acaena microphylla* (the species with very large red conspicuous seed heads, but miniscule leaves), *Luzula decipiens*, *Gaultheria macrostigma* and *Hierochloa redolens*. Many *Pittosporum turneri* trees were also identified. This is a rare species. We then left the track and found two of the other plants that were on the “to find” list: the parsley fern *Botrychium australe* and *Melicytus flexuosus*, a curious divaricating shrub with very few tiny leaves. Another parsley fern was nearby: *Botrychium biforme*. Also in this area

were *Oreobolus pectinatus*, *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae* and *Oreostylidium subulatus*. *Hypericum minutiflorum* and a similar but greener species *H. pusillum* were found here too.



The evening and night turned into a very cold affair for those of us who had somehow missed the word 'frost' in the description of this trip and had come badly prepared for the low temperatures worsened by wind. I reluctantly admit that I was one of those.

The next morning it warmed up quickly and we were all happy again. We walked to a wetland where many rushes were identified. A *Pterostylis* species was located, but due to lack of flower it couldn't be decided whether it was *P. micromega* or *patens*. Another orchid, *Prasophyllum hectorii*, which is also supposed to live in the area was not found. After the wetland was exhausted we entered a nearby forest, which caused a flood of 'new' species to be added to our lists including silver pine, *Lagarostrobos colensoi* and *Lycopodiella australianum* as well as many *Hymenophyllum* species. In the afternoon we went over to another wetland, where most of us got wet feet and some even wet knees. The exciting finds there were the carnivorous plants *Drosera binata* and *D. arcturi*. One species which we had been on the look-out for, but which we didn't see was the native cedar, *Libocedrus bidwillii*. On our way home we spent an hour or so on

our hands and knees looking for more *Hypericum minutiflorum* and the conclusion was that it was not rare here. It is just one that is easily overlooked. It was a very full day for the mind as well as for the body and most of us were happy to be back at camp.

On Monday we crossed the stream near Saturday's *Botrychium* location in search of more *Melicytus flexuosus*. We found many. We also found the only native mint, *Mentha cunninghamii*. The data deficient species *Stenostachys gracilis* was also located.

The author was suffering from morning weakness and got a bit grumpy, so she went 'home' early. She was busy getting lost when, luckily, she made it back to the stream where the others were just returning for the home journey. The rain, that had been drizzle in the morning, was now really setting in and we were all rather wet by the time we returned to camp. Another bumpy ride to the main road, but luckily no new trees to cut away, and we all went our separate ways.

It was an excellent weekend; I learnt a lot and met some great botanists who I hadn't met before.



Pittosporum turneri
Photos: Lyneke Onderwater



Pittosporum turneri in fruit

WHENUAKURA CLEARING *

Graeme Jane

with contributions from other members of Rotorua Botanical Society trip to
Whenuakura clearing 27-31/01/2001

* Includes surrounding forest margins, camp site area, road from camp to western forest edge, clearing streamside, western bush edge of northern wetland, and western bush edge south of road.

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Dacrydium cupressinum
Halocarpus bidwillii
Lagarostrobos colensoi
Phyllocladus alpinus
Podocarpus hallii
Podocarpus totara var. *totara*
Prumnopitys ferruginea
Prumnopitys taxifolia

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Alseuosmia pusilla
Androstoma empetrifolia
Aristotelia fruticosa
Aristotelia serrata
* *Calluna vulgaris*
Carmichaelia australis agg.
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosma cheesemanii
Coprosma × *cunninghamii*
Coprosma foetidissima
Coprosma propinqua var. *propinqua*
Coprosma rigida
Coprosma tayloriae
Coprosma tenuifolia
Coriaria arborea var. *arborea*
Corokia cotoneaster
* *Cytisus scoparius*
Dracophyllum subulatum
Elaeocarpus hookerianus
Gaultheria antipoda
Gaultheria antipoda × *G. depressa* var.
novae-zealandiae
Gaultheria depressa var. *novae-zealandiae*

Gaultheria depressa var. *novae-zealandiae* ×
G. macrostigma
Gaultheria macrostigma
Griselinia littoralis
Hebe corriganii
Hebe stricta var. *stricta*
Leptospermum scoparium var. *scoparium*
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Leucopogon fraseri
* *Lupinus arboreus*
Melicope simplex
Melicytus flexuosus
Melicytus lanceolatus var. *lanceolatus*
Myrsine divaricata
Myrsine salicina
Neomyrtus pedunculata
Nestegis cunninghamii
Olearia ilicifolia
Olearia virgata agg.
Ozothamnus vauvilliersii agg.
Pimelea prostrata subsp. *vulcanica*
Pittosporum colensoi
Pittosporum tenuifolium agg.
Pittosporum turneri
* *Prunus* × *domestica*
Pseudopanax colensoi var. *colensoi*
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudowintera colorata
Quintinia serrata agg.
Raukawa anomalus
Raukawa simplex
* *Salix cinerea*
* *Salix fragilis*
* *Ulex europaeus*

Weinmannia racemosa

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Clematis cunninghamii

Clematis quadribacteolata

Muehlenbeckia axillaris

Muehlenbeckia complexa

Parsonsia capsularis var. *capsularis*

Rubus cissoides

Rubus schmidelioides var. *schmidelioides*

Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum

Hymenophyllum scabrum

Hypolepis millefolium

Leptopteris hymenophylloides × *L. superba*

Leptopteris superba

Microsorium pustulatum subsp. *pustulatum*

Ophioglossum coriaceum agg.

Paesia scaberula

Polystichum vestitum

Pteridium esculentum

Sticherus cunninghamii

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Huperzia australiana

Huperzia varia

Lycopodium fastigiatum

Lycopodium scariosum

Lycopodium volubile

Ferns

Asplenium flaccidum

Blechnum colensoi

Blechnum fluviatile

Blechnum novae-zelandiae "swamp form"

Blechnum novae-zelandiae

Blechnum novae-zelandiae × *B. procerum*

Blechnum penna-marina

Blechnum procerum

Blechnum vulcanicum

Botrychium australe

Botrychium bifforme

Ctenopteris heterophylla

Cyathea smithii

Dicksonia squarrosa

Gleichenia dicarpa

Grammitis billardierei

Grammitis magellanica subsp. *nothofageti*

Histiopteris incisa

Hymenophyllum armstrongii

Hymenophyllum dilatatum

Hymenophyllum flabellatum

Hymenophyllum multifidum

Hymenophyllum rarum

Orchids

Aporostylis bifolia

Microtis oligantha

Microtis unifolia

Nematoceras trilobum

Prasopphyllum colensoi

Pterostylis australis

Pterostylis micromega

Pterostylis patens

Simpliglottis cornuta

Thelymitra cyanea

Thelymitra longifolia

Grasses

* *Agrostis capillaris*

Agrostis personata

* *Anthoxanthum odoratum*

Chionochloa rubra subsp. *rubra*

Cortaderia fulvida

Deyeuxia avenoides agg.

Deyeuxia quadriseta

Festuca novae-zelandiae

Hierochloa redolens

* *Holcus lanatus*

Lachnagrostis elata

Lachnagrostis hyalii

Lachnagrostis pilosa subsp. *pilosa*

Microlaena avenacea

Poa anceps subsp. *anceps*

Poa cita

Rytidosperma gracile

Rytidosperma viride
Stenostachys gracilis
Trisetum lasiorhachis

Sedges

Baumea rubiginosa
Baumea teretifolia
Carex breviculmis
Carex coriacea
Carex dipsacea
Carex dissita
Carex echinata
Carex lessoniana
Carex secta
Carpha alpina
Eleocharis acuta
Eleocharis gracilis
Eleocharis sphacelata
Gahnia procera
Isolepis crassiuscula
Isolepis habra
Isolepis reticularis
Isolepis subtilissima
Lepidosperma australe
Oreobolus pectinatus
Schoenus maschalinus
Schoenus pauciflorus
Uncinia laxiflora
Uncinia rubra
Uncinia rupestris agg.
Uncinia strictissima

Rushes and allied plants

Empodisma minus
* *Juncus articulatus*
* *Juncus bulbosus*
Juncus edgariae
* *Juncus effusus* var. *effusus*
Luzula decipiens
* *Luzula multiflora*
Luzula picta var. *picta*
Luzula subclavata

Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

Astelia "nervosa broad"
Astelia fragrans
Collospermum microspermum
Herpolirion novae-zelandiae
Phormium tenax
Potamogeton suboblongus

Dicotyledonous herbs

Acaena anserinifolia agg.
Acaena juvenca
Acaena microphylla var. *microphylla*
* *Achillea millefolium*
Cardamine debilis agg. "Long Style"
Cardamine debilis agg. "Narrow Petal"
Celmisia gracilentia
Centella uniflora
Chaerophyllum colensoi
Chaerophyllum ramosum
* *Cirsium arvense*
* *Cirsium vulgare*
* *Conyza sumatrensis*
* *Crepis capillaris*
Dichondra "Volcanic Plateau" (aff *D. brevifolia*)
* *Digitalis purpurea*
Drosera binata
Drosera spathulata
Elatine gratioloides
Epilobium alsinoides agg.
Epilobium pedunculare
Epilobium pycnostachyum
Epilobium rotundifolium
Euchiton audax
Euchiton delicatus
Euchiton involucratus
Euchiton limosus
* *Gamochaeta coarctata*
Gentianella chathamica subsp. *nemorosa*
Geranium brevicaule
Geranium microphyllum
Gonocarpus aggregatus
Gonocarpus micranthus
Gunnera prorepens agg.

Helichrysum filicaule
Hydrocotyle moschata var. *moschata*
Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae var. *novae-zeelandiae* agg.
 * *Hypericum humifusum*
Hypericum minutiflorum
 * *Hypericum perforatum*
Hypericum pusillum
 * *Hypochaeris radicata*
 * *Jacobaea vulgaris*
Lagenifera petiolata
Lagenifera pumila
Leptostigma setulosa
Lobelia angulata
 * *Lotus pedunculatus*
Mentha cunninghamii
 * *Mycelis muralis*
Myosotis forsteri
Myriophyllum pedunculatum subsp. *novae-zeelandiae*
Nertera scapanioides
Oreostylidium subulatum
Oxalis exilis agg.

Oxalis magellanica
 * *Pilosella officinarum*
Plantago raoulii
 * *Prunella vulgaris*
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum agg.
Ranunculus glabrifolius
Ranunculus reflexus
Raoulia albosericea
Raoulia glabra
Raoulia tenuicaulis
 * *Rumex acetosella*
 * *Senecio vulgaris*
Senecio wairauensis
 * *Sonchus arvensis*
 * *Sonchus asper*
 * *Sonchus oleraceus*
Stackhousia minima
 * *Taraxacum officinale*
Viola cunninghamii
Viola filicaulis