

## TE TUHI TRIP

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12th May 2012

This trip was cancelled last year because of weather but this year we had a fine day and eight keen botanists met at the end of Te Tuhi Road some 10 km east-north-east of Matamata.

The trip started with a 45 minute walk over farm land. John pointed out hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and *Persicaria hydropiper*. As we neared the bush at a height of about 300 metres we got good views to the south, of Titiraupenga, Pureora, Ngaruahoe, Ruapehu (with some snow on it) and Tauhara, all of which you don't often see from the Kaimais.

We followed a weed sprayed track up to the bush edge thinking that this was the track proper but it only went as far as the local farmer's water intake. Back-tracking we eventually found the right entry point to the bush. At the bush edge meadow rice grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) was noted and epiphytes observed were *Asplenium oblongifolium*, *Metrosideros diffusa*, *Microsorium pustulatum*, *Earina autumnalis*, *E. mucronata*, *Asplenium flaccidum*, *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* and *Rumohra adiantiformis*. Entering the bush the track immediately crossed a stream which had kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*), parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*) pate (*Schefflera digitata*) and gully fern (*Pneumatopteris pennigera*) growing on the banks.

After a short climb out of the stream bed, the bush thinned out a bit and some grazing was evident. Shrubs in the area included konono (*Coprosma grandifolia*), kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*) and rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*). *Pellaea rotundifolia* and *Asplenium lamprophyllum* were growing on a large rock. Graeme Jane pointed out the shiny lamina of *Asplenium lamprophyllum* and said it was supposed to smell of zambuck. *Blechnum filiforme* was seen to be climbing trees. On the ground grew *Parsonsia heterophylla*, nini (*Blechnum chambersii*), creeping beard grass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* subsp. *imbecillus*), Zotov's hookgrass (*Uncinia zotovii*) with its widely spaced hooked seeds and some seedlings of

pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*). Puka (*Griselinia lucida*) was seen in the tops of some trees.



*Uncinia zotovii*



De-briefing after exiting the bush

Further along the track there was a *Hypolepis* that caused a bit of debate as to whether it was *H. rufobarbata*, *H. lactea* or *H. millefolium*. The question was never really resolved. *Nertera dichondrifolia* was then spotted. When viewed with a hand lens you can see small hairs on the leaf surface. These hairs grow perpendicular to the leaf surface for a short distance and then the hairs bend by 90° and grow parallel the leaf surface. Graeme remarked that this is near the southern limit for *N. dichondrifolia*.

The track got steeper and came out on an old slip face with shrubby haloragis (*Haloragis erecta*) growing on the bush edge. Here were good views out to the west across the southern Hauraki Plains.. This ridge dropped off steeply to the north and kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) was seen to be growing on the regenerating slip face. Tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) and tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*) grew on the drier parts of the ridge.

Eventually we got up to the top of the Kaimais which is quite undulating. There were several stream crossings which flowed north then west over to the Te Ariki Falls which feeds the water supply for Matamata. We chose to take a short lunch break at a more or less sunny spot.

Here at the top the bush was mainly tawa and *Cyathea smithii*. *Hymenophyllum* spp. growing on *Cyathea* spp. included *H. sanguinolentum*, *H. scabrum*, *H. frankliniae*, *H. demissum*, *H. dilatatum*, *H. revolutum* and *H. rarum*. *H. flexuosum* was also spotted, leading to a short discussion on *Hymenophyllum australe* which I hadn't heard of and it wasn't in the Brownsey and Smith-Dodsworth Fern Book. Have a look on the NZPCN website for more details on this species.

As we dropped into one of the stream crossings black hard fern (*Blechnum nigrum*) was observed growing on a dark, damp bank on the side of the track. *Libertia micrantha* was seen growing on one of rocks in the creek.

At 2 pm when we were about 300 metres short of the North-South track junction, we decided we should head back. On the way back we saw a few raukawa (*Raukawa edgerleyi*) trees and we stopped to check out some lance fern (*Loxogramme dictyopteris*). We got back out of the bush about 3.15 pm. Thanks to those that came along. Next time we'll see if we can get to the Mangamuka Hut.

## REFERENCES

Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 1989 New Zealand ferns and allied plants.  
David Bateman Ltd, Auckland

NZPCN website: [nzpcn.org.nz](http://nzpcn.org.nz)