

MT URCHIN TRACK – 5TH DECEMBER 2015

Kerry Jones

Some of us drove down to the Urchin camp site on the Friday night and arrived in the dark and set up our tents. When the rest of the contingent arrived about 10 am on Saturday, we drove up the road to the start of the Urchin Track. The track started off at 840 metres in altitude.

In the gully just above the car park at about 860 metres we saw soft tree fern (*Cyathea smithii*), *Coprosma tenuifolium*, lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolium*) and mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*). A grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*) was heard. We stopped at about 900 metres to look at the large caged tupeia mistletoe (*Tupeia antarctica*).

At 940 metres we started to see seedlings of red beech (*Fuscopora fusca*) – formerly known as *Nothofagus fusca* – and mountain cabbage tree (*Cordyline indivisa*) as well as *Dicksonia lanata*, the tree fern that doesn't develop a trunk.



Dicksonia lanata frond



and base

A patch of the umbrella fern *Sticherus cunninghamii* was seen a little further up. At 970 metres we encountered our first wheki ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*), followed by



Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum

Blechnum procerum on the side of the track at 990 m, with *Blechnum fluviatile* and *Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum* on a tree trunk.

At 1000 metres we heard a long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamys taitensis*) and saw *Coprosma microcarpa* and *Raukawa anomalus*. *Coprosma foetidissima* and *Raukawa simplex* appeared at 1070 m. At 1180 metres we saw our first mountain toatoa (*Phyllocladus alpinus*), *Blechnum penna-marina* subsp. *alpina* was seen on the side of the track, and a mountain tree fern (*Cyathea colensoi*) was pointed out, with its pale brown scales. *Coprosma pseudociliata* was present at an old campsite at 1210 metres. We emerged from the bush at 1290 metres and stopped for a while to start looking at the alpine plants.



Brachyglottis bidwillii



Dracophyllum recurvum



Whipcord hebe
Veronica tetragona subsp. *tetragona*



Hebe venustula



Lycopodium fastigiatum



Ourisa vulcanica



Prasophyllum colensoi



Gaultheria depressa
var. *novae-zelandiae*



Anisotome aromatica

Other alpine species that were seen were as we headed up to the top were *Celmisia spectabile*, *Coprosma perpusilla* subsp. *perpusilla*, *Coriaria pteridoides*, *Epacris alpina*, *Gaultheria antipoda* and unfortunately, heather (*Calluna vulgaris*).

We stopped at the trig (1380 metres) and took in the expansive views. On the way down I decided to stop at each 100 metres in altitude and do a short species list.

1300 metres (Bush Edge): mountain beech (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*), *Blechnum novae-zealandiae*, *Podocarpus nivalis*, *Coprosma foetidissima*, *Coprosma pseudocuneata*, *Raukawa simplex*, *Olearia nummulariifolia*.

1200 metres: *Myrsine divaricata*, *Podocarpus hallii*, *Coprosma foetidissima*, *Hebe corriganii*, *Blechnum discolor*, mountain beech (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*), *Griselinia littoralis*, *Raukawa simplex*, Upper limit of red beech (*Fuscospora fusca*).

1130 metres: Lower limit of mountain beech (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*).

1100 metres: red beech, horopito (*Pseudowintera colorata*), *Blechnum discolor*, *Coprosma foetidissima*, *Blechnum procerum*, *Coprosma tenuifolium*, *Hebe corriganii*, *Coprosma microcarpa*, soft mingimingi (*Leucopogon fasciculatus*), *Asplenium flaccidum*.

1000 metres: *Blechnum discolor*, red beech, horopito, *Gabnia* sp., *Coprosma microcarpa*, Kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*), soft mingimingi.

Back at the cars we headed back down to the campsite. Some had organised some real accommodation in Turangi. Some headed home and a few of the more hardy types put up our tents again.

Thanks to Graeme for compiling the species list.

URCHIN TRACK PLANT SPECIES

Map: T19 Grid Ref: 27556 62229

Graeme Jane & RBS

5 December 2015

*=naturalised species

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i> agg. (<i>A. pusilla</i> ; <i>A. viridior</i>)	bidibid
* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> (<i>A. tenuis</i>)	browntop
<i>Anaphalioides alpina</i> (<i>Anaphalis</i> "bellidioides large"; <i>Helichrysum</i>)	
<i>Anisotome aromatica</i> ss (many vars and forms)	kopoti
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i> ss	hanging spleenwort; makawe
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i> (<i>A. falcatum</i>)	sickle spleenwort; petako
<i>Astelia</i> "nervosa bronze"	
<i>Astelia fragrans</i>	bushflax; kakaha
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
<i>Austroderia fulvida</i>	kakaho; toetoe
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	crown fern; piupiu; petipeti
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	kiwakiwa; kiwikiwi
<i>Blechnum montanum</i> (pp. <i>B. capense</i> ; <i>B. "mountain"</i>)	mountain kiokio
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>	alpine blechnum
<i>Blechnum procerum</i> (<i>B. minus</i> of Vol.1)	kiokio; small kiokio
<i>Blechnum vulcanicum</i>	
<i>Brachyglottis bidwillii</i> (<i>Senecio</i>)	rock slide tree daisy
* <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (<i>Culluna</i> ; in error)	heather; ling
<i>Carex horizontalis</i> (<i>Uncinia rupestris</i>)	
<i>Carex imbecilla</i> (<i>Uncinia gracilentia</i>)	
<i>Carex punicea</i>	
<i>Carex uncinata</i> (<i>Uncinia</i>)	watu
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta; marbleleaf
<i>Chaerophyllum colensoi</i> (<i>Oreomyrrrhis</i>)	mountain myrrh

<i>Chiloglottis cornuta</i> (<i>Simpliglottis</i>)	green bird orchid
<i>Chionochloa pallens</i> ssp. <i>pallens</i>	mid-ribbed snow tussock
<i>Chionochloa rubra</i> ssp. <i>rubra</i> var. <i>rubra</i>	red tussock
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	clematis; puawhananga
<i>Coprosma "oreophila" x C. tayloriae</i>	
<i>Coprosma foetidissima</i>	stinkwood; hupiro
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu; shining karamu
<i>Coprosma microcarpa</i>	small seeded coprosma
<i>Coprosma perpusilla</i> ssp. <i>perpusilla</i> (<i>C. pumila</i>)	creeping coprosma
<i>Coprosma pseudocuneata</i>	alpine coprosma
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i> agg. (<i>C. polymorpha</i>)	thorny coprosma
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma tayloriae</i> (<i>C. parviflora</i> (t))	
<i>Coprosma tenuifolia</i>	wavy-leaved coprosma
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree; ti-kouka
<i>Cordyline banksia</i>	ti ngahere
<i>Cordyline indivisa</i>	toi; broad-leaved cabbage tree
<i>Coriaria pteridoides</i>	mountain tutu
<i>Corybas trilobus</i> (<i>Nematoceras</i>)	
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i> (<i>Alsophila tricolor</i>)	ponga; silver fern
<i>Cyathea smithii</i> (<i>Alsophila</i>)	soft-leaved tree fern; katote
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	wheki-ponga; kuripaka
<i>Dicksonia lanata</i> var. <i>lanata</i>	tuokura; stumpy tree fern
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki; harsh tree fern
<i>Dracophyllum recurvum</i>	curved-leaved grass tree
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	spring orchid; peka-a-waka
<i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i>	pokaka
<i>Epacris alpina</i>	
<i>Epilobium rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved willowherb
<i>Euphrasia cuneata</i>	tutumako; NZ eyebright
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	fuchsia; kotukutuku
<i>Fuscospora cliffortioides</i> (<i>Nothofagus</i>)	mountain beech; tawhairakau
<i>Fuscospora fusca</i> (<i>Nothofagus</i>)	red beech
<i>Gabnia pauciflora</i>	

<i>Gabnia procera</i>	takahikahi; tall tufted sedge
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry; tawiniwini
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i> × <i>G. novae-zelandiae</i>	
<i>Gaultheria crassa</i>	scarlet snowberry
<i>Gaultheria depressa</i> var. <i>novae-zelandiae</i> (<i>G. "novae-zelandiae"</i>)	mountain snowberry
<i>Gentianella montana</i> ssp. <i>ionostigma</i> <i>G. patula</i> "North Is"	
<i>Geranium brevicaule</i> (<i>G. sessiliflorum</i> var. <i>novaezelandiae</i>)	
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	broadleaf; kapuka
<i>Hebe corriganii</i>	purple-flowered hebe
<i>Hebe venustula</i> agg. (<i>H. brachysiphon</i>)	
<i>Hierochloa novae-zelandiae</i> (pp. <i>H. fraseri</i>)	alpine holly grass
<i>Hierochloa redolens</i> (<i>Holcus</i>)	sweet-scented holy grass
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Hydrocotyle dissecta</i>	
<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i> var. <i>moschata</i> (<i>H. sibthorpioides</i>)	
<i>Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum</i> (<i>Mecodium</i>)	
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	blood-scented filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum villosum</i>	droop tipped filmy fern
* <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> (<i>Hypochoeris</i>)	catsear
* <i>Juncus effusus</i> var. <i>effusus</i> (<i>J. luxurians</i> ; <i>J. sarophorus</i> auct.)	soft rush
<i>Kelleria dieffenbachii</i> (<i>Drapetes</i>)	
<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	
<i>Lagenophora strangulata</i> (pp. <i>L. petiolata</i> , <i>Lagenifera</i>)	paranui
<i>Lepidothamnus laxifolius</i> (<i>Dacrydium laxifolium</i>)	pygmy pine
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i> (<i>Todea</i>)	single crepe fern; heruheru
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	manuka; red teatree
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i> (<i>Styphelia</i> ; <i>Cyathodes fasciculata</i>)	mingimingi; kaikaitau
<i>Libertia ixioides</i>	mikoikoi; native iris
<i>Lobelia angulata</i> (<i>Pratia</i>)	panakenake
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> (<i>L. major</i> ; <i>L. uliginosus</i>)	lotus major
<i>Luzula banksiana</i> var. <i>migrata</i> (<i>L. migrata</i>)	
<i>Luzula subclavata</i> (<i>L. picta</i> var. <i>pallida</i>)	
<i>Luzuriaga parviflora</i>	lantern berry; puwatawata
<i>Lycopodium fastigiatum</i>	mountain clubmoss
<i>Lycopodium scariosum</i>	creeping clubmoss
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	waewae-koukou; climbing clubmoss
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe

<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata; akatea
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i> (<i>Ehrharta diplax</i>)	bush rice grass; oat grass
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo; mapou
<i>Myrsine divaricata</i>	weeping matipo
<i>Myrsine nummularia</i>	creeping mapou; creeping matipo
<i>Neomyrtus pedunculata</i>	rohutu
<i>Nertera depressa</i> agg. (<i>N. cunninghamii</i> ; <i>Coprosma</i>)	common nertera
<i>Nertera villosa</i> (<i>N. "forest"</i> ; aff. <i>dichondraefolia</i> ; <i>Coprosma</i>)	
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i> (<i>Gymnelaea</i>)	white maire
<i>Notogrammitis angustifolia</i> ssp. <i>nothofageti</i>	
<i>Notogrammitis billardierei</i> (<i>Grammitis</i>)	common strap fern
<i>Olearia rami</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Oreobolus pectinatus</i>	comb sedge
<i>Oreobolus strictus</i>	
<i>Ourisia macrophylla</i> ssp. <i>macrophylla</i>	
<i>Ourisia vulcanica</i>	matted ourisia
<i>Parabebe hookeriana</i>	
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu; kaiwhiria
<i>Pentachondra pumila</i>	
<i>Phyllocladus alpinus</i> (<i>P. aspleniifolius</i> var. <i>alpinus</i>)	mountain toatoa; celery pine
* <i>Pilosella officinarum</i> (<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>)	mouse-eared hawkweed
<i>Pimelea buxifolia</i>	tall pinaroto
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood; tarata
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort; narrow-leaved plantain
* <i>Poa annua</i>	annual poa
<i>Poa breviglumis</i> (<i>P. "breviligulata"</i>)	fine poa
<i>Poa colensoi</i> agg. (<i>P. colensoi</i> var. <i>guthrie-smithiana</i>)	blue tussock
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i> × <i>P. nivalis</i>	
<i>Podocarpus laetus</i> (<i>P. hallii</i> , <i>P. cunninghamii</i>)	Hall's totara; thin bark totara
<i>Prasophyllum colensoi</i>	onion-leaved orchid
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i> (<i>Podocarpus ferrugineus</i> , <i>Stachypitys</i>)	miro; brown pine
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> (<i>Podocarpus spicatus</i>)	matai; black pine
<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i> var. <i>colensoi</i> (<i>Neopanax</i>)	mountain three finger; orihou
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood; horoeka

<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>	pepperwood; mountain horopito tutukiwi
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	
<i>Pterostylis patens</i> (fn. <i>P. banksii</i> ; p144)	
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i> (<i>P. serpens</i>)	leather-leaf fern
<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i> (pp. <i>R. hirtus</i>)	maruru; hairy buttercup
<i>Raoulia albosericea</i> (<i>R. hookerii</i> var; corr. orth.)	
<i>Raukawa anomalus</i> (<i>Pseudopanax</i> ; <i>Neopanax anomalum</i>)	whauwhaupaku
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer; tataramoa
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	butcher's fern
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i> (<i>Notodanthonia semiannularis</i> var.; <i>Danthonia</i>)	forest fairy grass
<i>Rytidosperma setifolium</i> (<i>Notodanthonia</i> ; <i>Danthonia semiannularis</i>)	
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	bristle tussock pate; patae; kotete
<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>	white mistletoe; pirata
<i>Urtica incisa</i>	stinging nettle
<i>Viola filicaulis</i>	forest violet
<i>Wahlenbergia pygmaea</i> var. <i>pygmaea</i> (<i>W. pygmaea</i>)	
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi; towai; tawhero