

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very grateful to Dr J.P. Roux of the National Botanic Gardens, Kirstenbosch, who examined living material of Greyia species for me and noted especially details of the staminodia.

Ponui Islet now rat free

E.K. Cameron

In a recent account of the flora and vegetation of an unnamed islet between Ponui and Rotoroa Islands, Cameron & Taylor (1992) recorded the presence of rats, presumably Norway rats. In January 1992 the successful eradication of Norway rats by the Salvation Army, with the help from the Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird, from Rotoroa Island (90 ha) was announced. On hearing this good news I asked Mike Lee of Waiheke Island if he could organise the Salvation Army to eradicate the rats from the Unnamed Islet. On 27 March Mike informed me that the Salvation Army were successful after 8 days poisoning on the islet in March. Not only should the islet's fauna now expand, the vegetation should as well because rats eat various parts of plants including seed and bark. This is more pronounced on islands without free water, such as this islet.

This successful team of rat hunters are now discussing the possibility of eradicating rats from Pakatoa (29 ha) and Rakino (147 ha) Islands. I wish them every success.

REFERENCE

Cammeron, E.K. & Taylor, G.A. 1992. Flora and vegetation of an islet off Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf, Auckland. Auck.Bot.Soc. Journal 47(1): 23-29.

Great Barrier Island: an addition

E.K. Cameron

A single native grass is added to the Flora of Great Barrier by Bartlett & Gardner (1983). Deyeuxia avenoides var. brachyantha (Cameron, AKU 22887) from Te Ahumata (White Cliffs), collected 25 April 1991. This grass was also collected on the adjacent Rakitu (Arid) Island in January 1981 (Cameron A196b, AKU 10897 and Wright 3678, AK 153295).

REFERENCE

Bartlett, J.K & Gardner, R.O. 1983. Flora of Great Barrier Island. Auck.Bot.Soc. Bulletin No. 14.

South-east Rangitoto Island

E.K. Cameron

On 7 June 1992 I lead a trip from Islington Bay to Rangitoto Wharf via the narrow, mainly coastal track. Obvious around Islington Bay were many of the exotic succulent species recorded by Sykes (1992). Two native ones were also evident; Peperomia urvilleana and Crassula sieberiana. Psilotum nudum and Cheilanthes sieberi were frequent by the coast.

Native ground orchids were common too; Acianthus sinclairii which was mostly in bud with some in full flower, A. "oblongus" with leaves and sessile flower stems, and both Pterostylis alobula and P. trullifolia flowering. Thelymitra leaves were also evident.

Leaving the coast the track undulates and snakes its way through low pohutukawa dominant forest. In the hollows large bryophyte mats of mainly mosses were common with the filmy ferns Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum and Trichomanes reniforme. The encouraging sign all along this track was the large numbers of hangehange seedlings up to 25 cm tall. No adults were seen. This regeneration of hangehange is due to the poisoning of possums and wallabies by the Department of Conservation since October 1990. What a wonderful sight!

About 1 km east of Rangitoto Wharf, by the coast, was a large infestation of mile-a-minute (Dipogon lignosus), both white and dark pink flowering plants were present. This climbing pea was smothering the shoreline and adjacent forest and needs to be eradicated. Also at this (old house?) site were large plants of Agave americana.

This track is not commonly used but it is interesting and good for botanising. I thank Dee and Mike Pigneguy for transport and hospitality and the rest of the party for their enthusiasm.

REFERENCE

- Sykes, W.R. 1992. Succulent plants of Rangitoto Island. Auck.Bot.Soc. Journal 47(1): 6-16.

Native forest at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, Manurewa

E.K. Cameron

These notes on the Botanic Gardens forest were compiled during a one day survey for the Auckland Regional Authority on 3 June 1975, and added to during an Auck. Bot. Soc. trip on the afternoon of 20 June 1992. A total native vascular plant species list of 152 species is appended. The species list by Gardner (1981) of the adjacent Totara Park (which also includes part of the Botanic Gardens forest) is incorporated into the appendix.

At the north end of the Botanic Gardens is native forest covering c. 10 ha which is included in the Gardens. This is contiguous with Totara Park forest (c. 20 ha) to the east which is managed by Manakau City. Most of this combined forest is on the north side of the Puhinui Stream and occupies a south-facing escarpment (40-80 asl).

Following the forest track by the Puhinui Stream are the best examples