

Dicotyledonous composite herbs (6) (A:5 I:1)

\**Conyza albida*

?\**C. bilboana* - seedlings only

\* *Crepis capillaris*

\**Hypochaeris radicata*

*Pseudognaphalium* "coast" (unnamed sp. aff. *P. luteoalbum* leaves mostly oblong-spathulate to narrowly oblong, rounded)

\**Sonchus oleraceus*

Dicotyledonous herbs (other than composites) (4) (A:3 I:1)

\**Orobanche minor* (unc)

\**Rumex acetosella*

*Oxalis rubens*

\**Silene gallica* subsp. *gallica*

Total number of taxa: 22

## Vascular Flora of White Rock, Southern Wairarapa Coast

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### INTRODUCTION

White Rock (Fig. 1) is an isolated Tertiary (Homer and Moore, 1989) limestone rock stack located 9 km east of Cape Palliser on the south Wairarapa coast. On 26 February 1993 we examined the flora of White Rock. We are presently unaware of any previous accounts dealing specifically with the rock's flora, although Druce (1976) included it within his indigenous vascular flora checklist (No. 118) of the south Wellington coast.

### THE FLORA

A vascular flora of 35 species (25 indigenous, 10 adventive) was recorded (Appendix 1). Of these 20 species were considered uncommon, most being confined to a small area of *Zoysia minima* turf developed amongst sand and limestone rubble, on the more sheltered northwestern side of the rock. The rock itself is extremely exposed so much of it is unvegetated by vascular species.

Along the south-facing parts of the rock dense mats of horokaka (*Disphyma australe* subsp. *australe*) and saltwort (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora* subsp. *quinqueflora*) are prominent, while the more sheltered western faces are sparsely vegetated in thickets of boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) and taupata (*Coprosma repens*). Amongst the limestone flags (i.e., pancake-like layers) the vines *Muehlenbeckia complexa* and *Tetragonia trigyna* were occasionally encountered along with *Chionochloa beddiei*, a Cook Strait endemic of similar stature and form to the Northland *C. bromoides* but reproductively quite different (see Connor, 1991).

The most significant discovery was *Rytidosperma petrosum*, a small bristle grass, recently recognised from a handful of specimens spanning Cook Strait (Connor and Edgar, 1979). *Rytidosperma petrosum* has been designated a "Rare" species using the IUCN Red Data Book threatened species classifications (Cameron et al., in press).

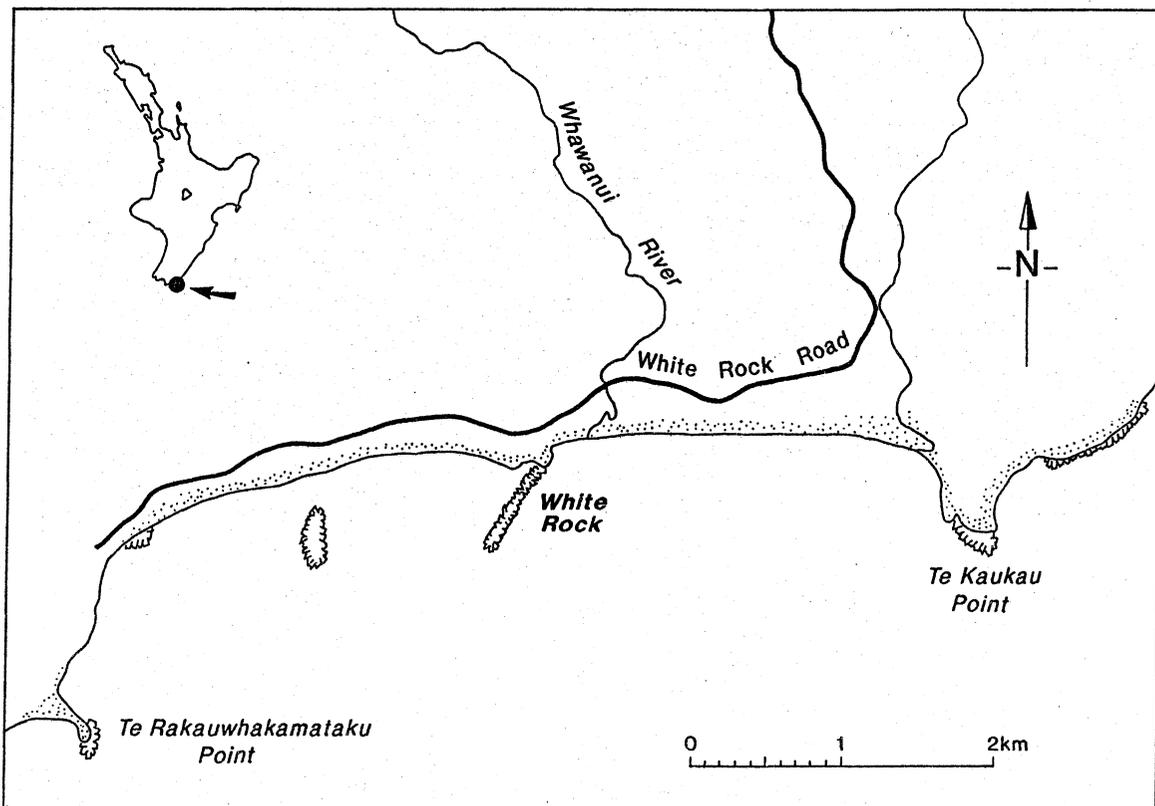


Figure 1. Location of White Rock

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1. Vascular Flora of White Rock, South Wairarapa Coast (NZMS 260 S28 098571, maximum elevation 12 m a.s.l.)

#### Abbreviations

\* = adventive

(unc) = uncommon (basis up to 10 "individuals" seen)

Ferns (2)

*Asplenium flabellifolium* (unc)      *A. terrestre* subsp. *maritimum* (unc)

Dicotyledonous shrubs (4)

*Cassinia leptophylla* var. *leptophylla* (unc)      \**Lycium ferocissimum*  
*Coprosma repens*      *Pimelea urvilleana* (unc)

Dicotyledonous lianes and related scrambling plants (4)

*Calystegia soldanella* (unc)      *Muehlenbeckia complexa* (unc)  
*Disphyma australe* subsp. *australe*      *Tetragonia trigyna* (unc)

Grasses (12)

\**Ammophila arenaria* (unc)      *F. multinodis*  
\**Dactylis glomerata* (unc)      *Lachnagrostis filiformis* var.  
*Deyeuxia billardierei*      *filiformis* (unc)  
*Chionochloa beddiei* (unc)      \**Lolium perenne* (unc)  
"Elymus glaucous"      *Poa cita* (unc)  
\**Festuca arundinacea*      *Rytidosperma petrosum* (unc)  
      *Zoysia minima*

Sedges (1)

*Isolepis nodosus* (unc)

Dicotyledonous composite herbs (4)

\**Hypochoeris radicata*      *Senecio lautus* var. *lautus*  
\**Leontodon taraxacoides*      \**Sonchus oleraceus*

Dicotyledonous herbs (other than composites) (8)

\**Anagallis arvensis* subsp. *arvensis* var. *arvensis* (unc)  
*Apium prostratum*  
*Colobanthus muelleri* (unc)  
\**Plantago coronopus*  
*P. spathulata* subsp. *spathulata* (unc)  
*Ranunculus acaulis* (unc)  
*Samolus repens* (unc)  
*Sarcocornia quinqueflora* subsp. *quinqueflora*

***Erythrina speciosa* in Auckland**

R.O. Gardner

In my article on coral trees (Gardner 1992) I mention a tree in Albert Park "near Kitchener Street" as being *Erythrina* x *orba*, a hybrid known otherwise only from the Parnell Rose Garden "type" plant.

I regret now that I did not thoroughly examine the Albert Park tree. Firstly, it actually is situated just up from Bowen Avenue, near the cork oaks and umbrella trees. Nor is it, as I said, a small tree (with the implication that it might be a scion of the Parnell one). It has a stumpy base of substantial size (c. 70 cm diam.) that currently bears four 3.5 m tall stems each c. 10 cm in diameter. Like *E. x orba*, its leaves and stems are very thorny, and its bronze-coloured bark comes away in flaky curls. Currently (March) flowers are lacking, but still I am sure that it is not *E. x orba* but rather *E. speciosa*, which is