

Acknowledgments

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Field trip to Cannibal Creek, Anawhata, 21 May 1994

Ken Camden

After our usual 10 am assembly, at the road end, twenty-seven of us descended to the beach, then at the north end of Parera Bay, ascended to meet a track which winds eventually over the hills to Te Henga. All of this area was farmed by the Bethells family up to about 1950, after which time native cover has been regenerating; recently its ownership has changed, and some of it is now administered by the Regional Council.

On the track down to the beach pencils and notebooks were already out recording the presence of *Hebe obtusata* (in flower) and its hybrids with *Hebe stricta*; then northwards the way was characterised by much manuka (and gorse) some quite tall, plenty of grasses, flax, and kiekie. At the bush edge was some *Cortaderia splendens* (the coastal species). Along the track we noted some black-edged puka, *Lepidosperma laterale* and *L. australe* together, along with some alien hakea. Along here we had a good view of the devastation caused by the fire in April this year - five ha burnt black above the Anawhata Stream. Some *Pouteria costata* was present in this coastal bush. On meeting Cannibal Creek we turned upstream; the local kowhai *Sophora microphylla* var. *fulvida* was plentiful, along with numerous ferns and mosses. Among the streamside herbs were *Hypolepis ambigua*, punawaru *Sigesbeckia orientalis* (Compositae with an aromatic leaf); *Celmisia major* var. *major* was in seed on a rocky outcrop, and the ferns *Lastreopsis glabella* and *Pteris macilenta* were fairly commonly seen; as was tuhara *Machaerina sinclairii*. The orchid *Acianthus sinclairii* was seen in flower, and several young bushes of *Carmichaelia cunninghamii* (including *C. aligera*).

We enjoyed a delightful stroll along the stream edge, losing the "track" a couple of times, jumping the creek more or less gracefully, and wondering at little Bob's bare feet while we tightened our own parkas. Along the way several examples of a *Pseudopanax* hybrid rather like the commercial *P. 'Sabre'* whose parents are thought to be *P. crassifolius* and *P. arboreus* (see Metcalf 1987). At the end of our walk we were surprised by a splendid waterfall, our destination; not much water coming over in spite of recent rains. Soon our group was distributed in various precarious positions in and around the steep banks, lunch boxes at the ready, and comparing notes of what we had seen; in particular a small *Dicksonia fibrosa* right on the track, and Ewen's *Coprosma crassifolia* right where we sat.

Around the waterfall itself were numerous small *Astelia banksii*, *Haloragis erecta*, mountain flax, mangemange in profusion, *Dianella nigra*, the small fern *Ctenopteris heterophylla* clinging to a vertical rock, as well as numerous mosses and liverworts near the water or its spray. After a leisurely return trip we found the final climb back up to the cars was much steeper than when we had come down (!) but was brightened by the sighting of a small *Scandia rosifolia* next to the track. On our return along the Piha Rd we were guided by Harry Beacham a little way into the virgin bush, with permission, where we noted several important plants; for the writer, my first viewing of three species, with thanks. In the space of 100m we observed all these: *Earina autumnalis* and *Dendrobium cunninghamii* together, *Pittosporum kirkii* and *P. cornifolium*, *Ixerba brexioides* and *Quintinia serrata*, a nice *Pseudopanax edgerleyi* just emerging from its juvenile form, the normally epiphytic form of Kirk's daisy growing on the ground - *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*, several Hall's totara and some large samples of *Dracophyllum latifolium* with its striated bark, a mature tree of *Nestegis montana* with its smaller almost feathery foliage, all this apart from several large rimu, and kauri with its accompanying *Astelia trinervia*. Also noted in this area were *Pseudopanax anomalus*, toatoa *Phyllocladus glaucus* (juv), and *Myrsine salicina*. A special feature of this area was the relative abundance of *Pittosporum*

kirkii - growing on the ground, on miro, kauri, rimu, tree rata, ponga, wheki, and even a seedling on a kiekie stem.

Altogether an enjoyable and enlightening day, with thanks to all who made it so, and in spite of the deluge which spurred our final run to the cars.

Reference

Metcalf, L. J. 1987. *The Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs*. Reed Methuen Publishers Ltd, p.288.

Uncommon plants in the Waitakere Ranges (Number 2)

Sandra Jones

Bulbophyllum tuberculatum

There are two records of *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* in the Waitakeres in the ABS files.

- "on a fallen branch (species not recorded)... in the vicinity of Pukematekeo". (ABS Quarterly Newsletter, March 1962)
- on an old kahikatea in Rahui Kahika Reserve, Titirangi. It was in flower when originally found by Stephen King in June 1981 (ABS New-sheet September 1982).
- there is now a third recording, in the same general area as the first, this time at the bottom of the Anderson Track, on the flat near the Waitakere Golf Course. The top of an old kahikatea blew out some time in early 1994, taking a couple of side branches with it. Alan Ducker reports that he found some of the many plants on the branches in bud in mid-April. (We found it in full flower in Logues Bush, Wellsford, on the 16.4.94 Bot. Soc. field trip). By the time I went to have a look (29.4.94), I could find none in bud and many of the plants were beginning to look the worse for wear. For the record, six species of orchid came down on the branches- *Earina autumnalis*, *E. mucronata*, *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum*, *B. pygmaeum*, *Dendrobium cunninghamii* and *Drymoanthus adversus*.

Pseudowintera axillaris

Harry Beacham has found yet another plant of this species, this time on the Upper Nihotupu Track, between the stream and the junction of Cutty Grass Track. He says it's a healthy attractive specimen, about 12 ft high, and can be seen from the track. It was in bud when he found it on 6.5.94.

Additions to the adventive flora of the Waitakere Ranges

E. D. Hatch

Specimens in Auckland Museum Herbarium (AK) - I am obliged to Ewen Cameron for confirming my identifications.

- *Galinsoga quadriradiata*

Warner Park Avenue, Laingholm. Both sides of the road - E. D. Hatch 4.1.1994 (AK 218316)

- *Medicago sativa*

Embankment opposite 64 Victory Road, Laingholm, 2 plants - E. D. Hatch 26.1.1994 (AK 218317)