

Florula Paludum Puketapapaensis

Rhys Gardner

Last century, the low-lying, rather frosty ground between Mt Eden and Mt Roskill must have had quite a varied cover of scrub, fern, grassland, and swamp. Unfortunately, it seems to have been an area ignored by Kirk and Cheeseman; Alan Esler's account (1991) of the native plants of Auckland, for example, makes no mention of records from there. Its interest, though, can be gauged from the existence of a number of specimens in the herbarium of the University of Auckland (AKU), labelled "Mt Roskill Road". These were all collected in 1885-6, by a person about whom nothing is known for certain except his or her surname, Ball. (As a whole, the Ball herbarium in AKU is a large collection of native plants, from many places in New Zealand).

The specimens are all of wetland herbs. With their AKU numbers, they are:

Cardamine debilis 2984
Centipeda minima 5202 (det. C.J.Webb, with a query)
Cotula coronopifolia 5211
Crassula sieberiana 3102
Epilobium billardarianum subsp. *cinereum* 3355
Epilobium pallidiflorum 3388
Gnaphalum involucreatum 5272
Haloragis erecta 3438
Hypericum japonicum 3763
Muehlenbeckia complexa 3223
Myriophyllum propinquum 3456
Peperomia urvilleana 2949
Polygonum salicifolium 3195
Potentilla anserinoides 3942 (northernmost record ?)
Ranunculus amphitrichus 2928
Scleranthus biflorus 3242

Local historian Mr John Holloway has pointed out to me that Dominion Rd was formerly called, or at least referred to as, "The Mt Roskill Road", and also, that there was a swamp nearer to town than those towards the base of Mt Roskill, the one below St Alban's Church on Dominion Road, known to the Maori as Rotorangi (Simmonds 1987, p. 83).

This florula was made possible by the data-basing of the AKU herbarium. Perhaps a similar treatment of the collections of Petrie (mostly at WELT) and Carse (CHR) will bring other species to light.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Doug Rogan for supplying me with the list of specimens (AK, AKU), and also to John Holloway.

REFERENCES

- Esler, A. E. 1991: Changes in the native plant cover of urban Auckland, New Zealand. *N.Z.J.Bot.* 29:177-96.
Simmonds, D.R. 1987: Maori Auckland, including the Maori place names of Auckland collected by George Graham. Bush Press, Auckland.