

Okura Walkway and Scenic Reserve

Enid Asquith

10 October 1998 Field Trip led by Mike Wilcox.

It was a wonderfully varied coastal forest walk moving from mud and mangroves through nikau, kohekohe and taraire groves, on up over regenerating kauri ridges then down to estuarine shell beaches and sand-spit habitats. The plant associations in each area were predictable enough for Anne Grace to stop us because we were in typical *Schizaea* territory and to find it in moments, only a step off the track.

A view of the bush clad slopes from the bridge crossing the muddy creek at the start of the walkway had us admiring the many golden crowns of kowhai to be seen, still in flower although a little past their prime. After stopping to note the titoki overhanging the mangroves in the creek below and climbing away from the bridge, it was difficult to know where to focus attention with just so many special things to see.

A magnificent kohekohe, with a good crown showing little sign of possum browse, towered over the delicate fern *Asplenium gracillimum* and another over quite dense, regenerating groves of nikau. An enthusiastic search in a fallen *Collospermum hastatum* unearthed a 3 mm snail, easily recognised by its flattened, tiger-striped shell from slides seen at the previous Wednesday's evening meeting - we were unable to name it! There was *Lastreopsis glabella* to compare with *L. microsora* and *Alseuosmia quercifolia* to confuse with *A. macrophylla*.

Even during lunch Marie Taylor was not idle, finding the tiny threads of horsehair fungus *Marismius* in the deep taraire leaf litter beneath her.

On over the ridges were drifts of *Pterostylis banksii*, a

Plant list for Okura Reserve

Prepared by Mike Wilcox (preliminary list 24 August 1998), with additions from Enid Asquith, Anne Grace, Leslie Haines, Sandra Jones, and Marie Taylor (10 October 1998).

* = adventive

Ferns and fern allies

Adiantum cunninghamii
Adiantum viridescens
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium gracillimum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum discolor
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Doodia media
Gleichenia dicarpa
Hymenophyllum demissum

Hymenophyllum revolutum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Lastreopsis microsora
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea linearis
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Lycopodium deuterodensum
Lygodium articulatum
Paesia scaberula
Phymatosorus pustulatus
Phymatosorus scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris macilentata
Pteris tremula

Pyrrosia eleagnifolia
Schizaea fistulosa
Tmesipteris tannensis
Trichomanes elongatum

Conifers

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus hallii
Prumnopitys ferruginea

Woody dicotyledons : Trees, shrubs, epiphytes, climbers

Alectryon excelsus
Alseuosmia macrophylla
Alseuosmia quercifolia

Bulbophyllum pygmaeum on a kauri tree; a *Corybas oblongus* with perfectly typical blotched leaves and another *Corybas* with a perfect flower. The highlights of the fern finds were the thriving *Lindsaea linearis* on the very edge of the track and the very best example I have ever seen of *Trichomanes elongatum* - easy to see how it earned its common name of scrubbing-brush fern.

We had neither the time nor the mental capacity to investigate in any detail the shell banks and sand-spit areas by the time we reached them at the turn around point of our walk, although some intrepid souls had foregone their lunch break and headed off for Dacre Point. It was a delightful return walk, perfumed much of the way by the *Alseuosmia* and abundantly flowering *Geniostoma* and the track carpeted with the fallen flowers of *Geniostoma* and spent kowhai blooms. We were treated to a trail of Sandra Jones' track-side notes of specimens to check out with strict warnings not to trample! Without them we would never have seen the minute miro seedling hiding behind the kauri with the *Bulbophyllum* to add to the list.

Mike's preliminary plant list was dauntingly long at 112 species, so it was a real challenge to expect to add to our individually allocated species group. However, by the end of the day we had raised Mike's original total to over 160 - excluding the mosses, liverworts and lichens!

Thank you Mike for leading the outing and for your preliminary groundwork, it certainly gave us a challenging and stimulating day's botanising.

Aristotelia serrata
Avicennia marina ssp. *australasica* (estuary)
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carmichaelia australis
Carpodetus serratus
Clematis paniculata
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma grandifolia
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma macrocarpa
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma spathulata
Corokia buddleioides
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Cyathodes juniperina
Dracophyllum sinclairii
Dysoxylum spectabile
Fuchsia excorticata
Geniostoma rupestre var. *ligustrifolium*
Griselinia lucida
*Hakea sericea**
Hebe macrocarpa
Hedycarya arborea
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Macropiper excelsum
Meliccytus micranthus
Meliccytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros excelsa
Metrosideros perforata
Metrosideros robusta
Muehlenbeckia complexa
Myrsine australis
Myrsine salicina

Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia furfuracea
Oleari rani
Parsonsia sp.
Passiflora tetrandra
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Plagianthus divaricatus (estuary)
Pomaderris phyllicifolia var. *ericifolia*
Pomaderris kumeraho
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudopanax lessonii
Pseudopanax hybrids
Rubus australis
Rubus cissoides
Schefflera digitata
Sophora microphylla
Streblus heterophyllus
*Ulex europaeus**
Vitex lucens

Herbaceous dicots

Callitriche muelleri
Centella uniflora
Dichondra repens
Drosera auriculata
Galium perpusillum
Gnaphalium gymnocephalum
Gonocarpus incanus
Haloragis erecta
Hydrocotyle sp.
Nertera dichondrifolia
*Prunella vulgaris**
Ranunculus reflexus
Samolus repens (estuary)
Sarcocornia quinqueflora

Monocotyledons

Acianthus oblongus
Acianthus sinclairii

Astelia banksii
Astelia trinervia
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Caladenia sp.
Carex lambertiana
Carex ochrosaccus
Collospermum hastatum
*Cortaderia seloana**
Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Cordyline pumilio
Corybas oblongus
Corybas trilobus
Dianella nigra
Freycinetia baueriana ssp. *banksii*
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Isolepis nodosa (estuary)
Juncus kraussii var. *australiensis* (estuary)
Leptocarpus similis
Microlaena avenacea
Oplismenus imbecillis
Phormium tenax (estuary)
Pterostylis agathicola
Pterostylis banksii
Pterostylis graminea
Pterostylis trullifolia
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenus maschalinus
Schoenus tendo
Stipa stipoides (salt marsh)
Thelymitra sp.
Typha orientalis (estuary)
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia uncinata
Uncinia zotovii

Mosses (preliminary list of the more conspicuous species)

Breutelia pendula Apple moss. Common on ground in kauri forest and gumland scrub.
Bryum billardieri Terrestrial.
Campylopus introflexus Scrub areas.
Campochaete arbuscula Damp shaded forest. Bases of trees.
Campochaete pulvinata On leaning trees.
Cyathophorum bulbosum Quill moss. Damp shaded forest. Bases of trees.
Dicranoloma billardierei Shaggy moss. Very common in clumps on the ground.
Dicranoloma menziesii On exposed tree roots.
Distichophyllum microcarpum A leafy, fleshy green moss on damp, shady banks.
Fissidens pallidus On damp banks beside the track.
Fissidens tenellus On damp banks beside the track.
Hypnodendron arcuatum Umbrella moss. Forest floor.
Hypnodendron colensoi Umbrella moss. On ground in forest.
Hypnum cupressiforme Feather moss. Scrub areas. On ground.
Leptostomum macrocarpum Pin cushion moss. On nikau stems, in open
Leucobryum candidum Milk moss. Common ground moss, dry ridge forest.
Macromitrium sp. On trees.
Pseudoscleropodium purum An introduced moss. Patches beside the track, grassy and scrub areas.
Ptychomnion aciculare Common scale moss. Common on ground in scrub and dry forest.
Stokesiella praelonga Feather moss. Grassy areas, on ground.
Thuidium furfurosum Golden feather moss. Grassy and scrub areas, on ground.

Liverworts

Symphyogyna hymenophyllum On damp banks.
Trichocolea sp. On damp banks.

Lichens

Cladina confusa Reindeer lichen. Common in drier scrub, on the ground.
Pseudocyphellaria sp. On tree trunks
Usnea sp. Common on Hall's totara

Fungi (Some names supplied by Marie Taylor)

Favolaschia calocera Introduced orange fungus on dead wood.
Marasmius sp. Horse hair fungus, on taraire leaf litter.
Nidula candida Bird's nest fungus. Common beside the track, taraire forest.
Pluteus sp. On soggy rotten wood.