

Saltmarsh, Sandwiches, Swamp, and Scrub

A four-stage field trip on the shores of the Kaipara

17 April 1999

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Omaumau Saltmarsh

Maureen had thoughtfully brought nail-boxes to help us over a dilapidated barbed-wire fence. A party of school children had created a path earlier in the week, so the going was easy and we could look around us. Hummocks of dense vegetation were like islands surrounded by lower-growing ferns and grasses. I was chosen to check regularly the salinity of the water we were walking in – to test a theory that different plants tolerate different salt levels – and yes, it does appear to be correct. The water kept getting deeper – it filled our boots, and still we went out deeper. Spiders, crickets, caterpillars, moths and wasps were vainly trying to avoid a swim. Still the tide was coming in, so we beat a strategic retreat towards an early lunch.

Hoteo River Wharf

The strong wind drove the full king tide right across S.H.16, so we had to go slowly to our planned lunch place. However, when we arrived, we found the wharf under water, so used the big new picnic table with bench seats. Maureen handed out species lists for the afternoon, and as we neglected our empty lunch containers they were whipped away by the strong wind. I noticed some “wet-bottom-prints” on the seats as we packed up.

Cabbage Tree Swamp

We looked like a cross-country rally as we drove over farmland near Glorit. Maureen had chosen a safe place to leave the cars, mindful of heavy rainfall warnings, and the possibility of the ground becoming muddy. We walked down to the swamp past evidence of drainage – I hope that won't change the vegetation type. There were lots of botanical treasures, and I enjoyed the exchanges between the teachers and the learners. Several additions were made to the species list.

Gumland Scrub

The weather cleared as we climbed through coastal forest. The kauri were a huggable size; undergrowth was sparse. One tree showed recent stag antler damage, and we were told that the farmer had shot seven stray deer! We picked over extensive midden areas, seeing what the Maori had had for their lunches many years ago. A clay road made walking easy. We spread out to search for elusive *Pimelea* and *Schizaea* species, both of which were found in due course. The manuka flowers were various shades of pink. Two *Pomaderris* were in bud, promising a floral display in spring.

Thanks Maureen, for getting permission from local farmers to visit their land, and for writing preliminary species lists.

Species lists of Indigenous Vascular Plants in the vicinity of the Kaipara Harbour

Omaumau Saltmarsh, south-eastern margin (1991)

Compiled by Maureen Young

Dicotyledons

Apium “white denticles”
Avicennia marina subsp.
 australasica
Calystegia sepium
Coprosma propinqua
Coprosma propinqua x *C. robusta*
Haloragis erecta
Kunzea ericoides
Lobelia anceps
Muehlenbeckia complexa
Myoporum laetum

Myrsine australis
Plagianthus divaricatus,
Samolus repens
Sarcocornia quinqueflora
Selliera radicans
Senecio minimus

Monocotyledons

Baumea articulata
Baumea juncea
Bolboschoenus sp.
Carex litorosa *

Carex virgata
Cordyline australis
Cyperus ustulatus
Isolepis nodosa
Juncus kraussii var. *australiensis*
Juncus sarophorus
Leptocarpus similis
Phormium tenax
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
Stipa stipoides
Triglochin striata
Typha orientalis

*Not seen recently. Probably engulfed by the saltmarsh paspalum, *Paspalum vaginatum*.

Cabbage Tree Swamp, Adshead's Farm, Glorit

Compiled by Maureen Young 22.1.1995 & 9.4.1999 & ABS 17.4.1999

Ferns

Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum novae-zelandiae (swamp form)
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Deparia petersenii subsp. *congrua*
Dicksonia squarrosa
Hypolepis distans
Paesia scaberula
Phymatosorus pustulatus
Phymatosorus scandens
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris tremula
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia

Gymnosperms

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides

Dicotyledons

Callitriche muelleri
Calystegia sepium
Carmichaelia australis
Carpodetus serratus
Clematis paniculata
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma propinqua
Coprosma propinqua x *C. robusta*
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma tenuicaulis
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Geniostoma rupestre var. *ligustrifolium*
Hedycarya arborea
Kunzea ericoides
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptospermum scoparium
Muehlenbeckia complexa
Myrsine australis
Olearia solandri
Rubus australis

Solanum americanum
Vitex lucens

Monocotyledons

Baumea articulata
Baumea teretifolia
Carex lesssoniana
Carex virgata
Cordyline australis
Cortaderia splendens
Cyperus ustulatus
Earina mucronata
Eleocharis acuta
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Isachne globosa
Oplismenus imbecillis
Phormium tenax
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Typha orientalis

Adshead's Farm, Glorit Bush & Gumland Scrub

Compiled by Maureen Young 25.10.1981 & 9.4.1999 & ABS 17.4.1999

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii
Adiantum fulvum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum membranaceum
Cyathea dealbata
Doodia australis
Doodia mollis
Gleichenia dicarpa
Hymenophyllum demissum
Lindsaea linearis
Lycopodium deuterodensum
Lygodium articulatum
Paesia scaberula
Phymatosorus pustulatus
Phymatosorus scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris tremula
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia
Schizaea fistulosa

Gymnosperms

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea
Prumnopitys taxifolia

Dicotyledons

Alseuosmia quercifolia
Beilschmiedia tarairi

Beilschmiedia tawa
Carmichaelia australis
Centella uniflora
Clematis cunninghamii
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma rhamnooides
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma spathulata
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Galium propinquum
Gaultheria antipoda
Geniostoma rupestre var. *ligustrifolium*
Gonocarpus incanus
Gonocarpus micranthus
Haloragis erecta
Hedycarya arborea
Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Lagenifera pumila
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Leucopogon fraseri
Litsea calicaris
Lobelia anceps
Meliclytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros perforata
Myrsine australis
Nertera dichondrifolia
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia furfuracea
Olearia rani
Pimelea prostrata var. *erecta*
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Pomaderris ericifolia
Pomaderris kumeraho

Pseudopanax crassifolius
Rhabdothamnus solandri
Rubus australis
Sophora microphylla
Streblus heterophyllus
Vitex lucens

Monocotyledons

Acianthus sinclairii
Baumea tenax
Baumea teretifolia
Carex dissita
Caladenia chlorostyla
Collospermum hastatum
Cordyline australis
Danhatchia australis
Dianella nigra
Echinopogon ovalis
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Lepidosperma australe
Lepidosperma laterale
Microlaena stipoides
Oplismenus imbecillis
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Rytidosperma racemosum
Schoenus tendo
Thelymitra aemula
Thelymitra aff. *ixioides*
Thelymitra pauciflora
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia uncinata