

## Exotic herbs (33)

### Exotic ferns & fern allies (4)

*Lastreopsis* sp. single collection, Jan 1997 unable to relocate wild plant, AK 233644  
*Nephrolepis cordifolia* (tuber ladder fern) l, outer bush margin

*Pteris cretica* .....s, W gully  
*Selaginella kraussiana* (selaginella) .....c, especially gully bottom

### Exotic dicot herbs (14)

*Ageratum houstonianum* (argeratum) ..s, E gully, AK 246039  
*Araujia sericifera* (moth plant) .....l  
*Callitriche stagnalis* (starwort) .....l  
*Conyza albida* (fleabane) .....o  
*Crassula multicaeva* (fairy crassula) .....l, established from garden dumping, W gully  
*Helminthotheca echioides* (ox tongue) ...l  
*Impatiens walleriana* (impatiens) .....l, spread from garden dumping, W gully, AK 247309

*Nasturtium officinale* (watercress) .....l, confluence of 2 streams  
*Physalis peruviana* (cape gooseberry) ..o  
*Plectranthus ciliatus* (plectranthus) .....la, forming patches in the bush, AK 246037  
*Senecio bipinnatisectus* (Australian fireweed) ...o  
*Sonchus oleraceus* (sow thistle) .....o  
*Verbena bonariensis* (purple-top) .....l, confluence of 2 streams & outer bush margin, AK 246041  
*Vinca major* (periwinkle) .....l, upper boundary, W gully

### Exotic monocot herbs (15)

*Agapanthus praecox* (agapanthus) .....outer bush margins  
*Alocasia brisbanensis* (elephant ear) ....l, outer bush margin W gully  
*Asparagus asparagoides* (smilax) .....s, outer bush margin W gully  
*Asparagus scandens* (climbing asparagus) .....x1, by confluence of 2 streams  
*Carex divulsa* .....l, AK 246044  
*Carex longebrachiata* .....l, AK 97417-21  
*Cyperus albostrigatus* .....la, upper W gully, AK 240205  
*Cyperus eragrostis* .....o

*Elegia capense* .....x3, clumps, confluence of 2 streams, present 1999, absent 2000, planted? AK 240206-07  
*Hedychium gardnerianum* (Kahali ginger) .....o-la, especially by streams  
*Iris foetidissima* (stinking iris) .....l, outer bush margin  
*Juncus acuminatus* .....l, swamp by confluence of 2 streams, AK 246202  
*Tradescantia fluminensis* (wandering Jew) .....lc  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica* (arum lily).....lc, top of W gully  
*Z. aethiopica* cv. 'Green Goddess' (arum lily) .....l, by confluence of 2 streams, AK 246203-05

### Historical herbarium collections from St John's College by T.F. Cheeseman

These specimens were collected late 19<sup>th</sup> century and would have been growing in the open (not in the bush).  
 Monocots (\* = exotic species)  
*Juncus pauciflorus* AK 2934 (1873)

*Juncus procerus*\* AK 2922-24 (1897)  
*Juncus usitatus* AK 2935 (undated)  
 X *Schedololium holmbergii*\* (grass hybrid) AK 98934 (undated)  
*Schoenus apogon* AK 2198 (1883)



## Field trip to southern Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf, Auckland

E. K. Cameron

The Auckland Botanical Society visited Ponui Island on 20 November 1999. It was a most memorable trip for several reasons. At 8.30 am we left the wharf at downtown Auckland on the *Reo Moana*, then over to Devonport to collect 10 more Bot Socers, onto Rangī wharf to pick up Sandra Wotherspoon and off to Ponui Island with 51 adults and 5 children on a rather changeable day. The sun then came out and all was going well until in the Tamaki Strait off Maraetai the alarm bell rang and the engine switched off because of over-heating. Thirty minutes later it had cooled enough to fill the radiator (leaking cap was the identified culprit) and we were off again on reduced revs (just to be careful). Forty minutes later we anchored in the middle of Motunau Bay, southern Ponui Island just

after midday. The boat's tender was very small and it was a relief when David Chamberlin came out in a sturdy craft and ferried us all ashore in four trips. The falling tide had now left the *Reo Moana* leaning, stuck in the mud. At 1 pm we were all assembled by the woolshed and set off with Pat Chamberlin (David's mother) in the lead.

The rather wet morning had cleared into a fine afternoon. We crossed some paddocks on the river flat (the sheep were being shorn in the adjacent woolshed) with swampy open drains, headed north and then turned west up a forested gully, dominated by tall kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*). I was torn between trying to record everything and fall behind or to keep up. Mixed with the kanuka in the valley



**Fig.1. Bot Socers leaving Ponui Island: David Chamberlin (left, with a hat) manoeuvres his boat close to *Reo Moana* for the final transfer.**

**Photo: Ross Beever 20 Nov 1999.**

bottom were mamangi (*Coprosma arborea*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylon spectabile*), taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*) and a large white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*), then a strip of c.12 maire tawake (*Syzygium maire*) up to 15 m tall. These trees were in swampy ground by the creek and pigeons were feeding on the ripe, crimson fruit. Seedlings were frequent and a few puriri (*Vitex lucens*) were close by. Then up a low ridge where regenerating (ricker) kauri (*Agathis australis*) were present (up to c.50 cm dbh). We discovered a small patch of the orchid, *Caladenia chlorostyla* in full flower, under tall kanuka by the ricker kauri. Kanuka continued, with occasional akepiro (*Olearia furfuracea*), then finally onto the top of the main ridge with shorter kanuka and manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*). This ridge leads onto Ponui (trig at 173 m), but due to the time constraints we headed south down this ridge which opened up to pasture and a wonderful pa site on a local high point with large storage pits. Spectacular views from here across the Gulf and across the valley we had just walked up. Kauri, pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), kanuka partly in flower and the occasional tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) stood out. We then returned down the side of the tidal stream with mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) and sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*), to the western end of Motunau Bay.

On retrieving the tender from the eastern end of the beach, the bung went missing and David had to beach this boat and use a larger one which he finally ferried us out to the *Reo Moana* in two trips. By now the wind had strengthened and the transfer was tricky (see Fig. 1). It was nearly 4 pm when we left the island and headed home (Fig. 2). After two memorable drop-offs at Rangitoto and Devonport wharves (leaving a piece of the boat still attached to the Devonport wharf), we finally berthed at downtown Auckland at 7 pm.

Collections made during our short trip included: mosses by Jessica Beever, see her report on these in this issue (Beever 2000); lichens by Doug Rogan who intends to write something on them after the next Bot Soc trip; and I collected wild vascular plants, mainly adventive species (see Appendix).

#### Background

Ponui Island covers 1795 ha (Taylor 1989) and the highest point is 173 m asl. Some two-thirds of the island is in pasture, while the rest is mainly secondary forest; kanuka is especially prominent. Elizabeth Brown (1979a) summarises the history, geology and geography of the island. Kauri was milled in the early 1900s. The Chamberlins bought the island in 1854 and cleared much of it for

farming. Around the turn of the century (c.1900) the farm was divided into three roughly equal parts. Today the northern part is owned by Peter Spencer; the middle part by Richard H. & A. L. Chamberlin; and the southern part by David and Ros Chamberlin. David is a fifth generation Chamberlin on the island and he has lived there all his life. The last time the tea tree was burnt was about 50 years ago and some of the once bare ridges are now covered in low tea tree (*D. Chamberlin pers. comm.*). David also informed me that most of the cattle and sheep do not go into the bush, especially now that they stock only young cattle that are not so adventurous.

#### The vascular flora

Brown (1979b) surveyed most of the island's vegetation during a Field Club trip from 26 August – 2 September 1978. She recorded 202 vascular plant species (which includes 178 indigenous spp.) and excluded pasture or garden species. We recorded 192 wild vascular species from the southern part of the island, of which 49.5% were exotic species (see Appendix). This includes 94 additions to Brown's list, of which are 12 native species. Most of those additions, not surprisingly, came from the pastoral areas.

There were no additions to the ferns (Elizabeth

Brown at that time specialised in ferns and most occur in the bush areas where she surveyed). Although we did not have time to visit the king fern site, David informed me that there are 100s still there at the head of a gully, although 15-20 years ago some large specimens were washed out in a flood. Our most interesting additions were the swamp tree, maire tawake, and the *Caladenia* ground orchid.

#### Some cultivated plants

Cultivated trees noted by Mike Wilcox were *Pinus radiata*, *Pinus nigra*, *P. densiflora*, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, and *Eucalyptus pilularis*. The latter is represented by two medium-sized trees on west side of Motuanu Bay, the *Pinus densiflora* was on the east side of the bay. By the woolshed area there were several edible fig trees (*Ficus carica*), some fruit trees, a hawthorn hedge (*Crataegus monogyna*) and a barberry (*Berberis glaucocarpa*) hedge. There is a wind shield of pampas grass (*Cortaderia ? selloana*) which does not seem to spread (*R. Chamberlin pers. comm.*).

#### Weeds

The main weeds managed by David and Ros Chamberlin (*pers. comm.*) are mainly pastoral species: gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), winged thistle



Fig. 2. Relaxing on board *Reo Moana* as we start to head home (Sandra Wotherspoon, Ewen Cameron, Doug Rogan, Steve McCraith, David Weatherley).

Photo: Ross Beaver 20 Nov 1999.

(*Carduus pycnocephalus tenuiflorus*), nodding thistle (*Cirsium nutans*), Scotch thistle (*C. vulgare*), Bathurst bur (*Xanthium spinosum*), ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*), woolly nightshade (*S. mauritianum*), pines (*Pinus* spp.), the odd moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*), occasional blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), pampas grass on the cliffs (*Cortaderia? jubata*) and Onehunga weed (*Soliva? sessilis*) by the woolshed. Additional weeds that we saw which threatened the native vegetation include: Mexican devil (*Ageratina adenophora*), hawthorn, boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), sweet brier (*Rosa rubiginosa*) and reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*).

#### Animals

Birds seen during our visit: gannet, white-faced heron, domestic geese, paradise shelducks with a chick, mallard duck, harrier, pukeko, variable oystercatcher, spur-winged plover, NZ dotterel, black-backed gull, red-billed gull, Caspian tern, NZ pigeon, 2 galahs near woolshed (a first for me!), eastern rosella, shining cuckoo (heard), kingfisher, welcome swallow (nesting? in rotten barge at the west end of Motunau), silvereye, grey warbler, blackbird, song thrush, fernbird (heard), tui, house sparrow and goldfinch. David Chamberlin (*pers. comm.*, May 2000) informed me that galahs have been reasonably common on the island for c.12 years. They usually number c.6 together, but sometimes up to 30-40. In season they have young with them. Evidently at times the paradise shelduck can number up to 70 in a single paddock. Fourteen North Island brown kiwi were liberated on Ponui in the 1964 (6 from Little Barrier, 8 from Waipoua)

#### References

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#### Acknowledgements

Ros and David Chamberlin for allowing our visit to their part of the island, collection of voucher specimens and informing me about many aspects of the island; Pat Chamberlin for her leading us so well; David for his seamanship skills; Robin Gardner (skipper of *Reo Moana*) for making the trip so memorable; Shaarina Taylor for Ponui brown kiwi information; Mike Wilcox for specific comment and additions on a draft of this article, Paul Asquith for doubling my bird list, Ross Beever for the photos; and other Bot Soc members for their comments in the field.

(Lowe et. al. 1993). In 1999 there was a conservative estimated population of 120 territorial adults (from a call rate of 30.7 calls/hr), plus non-territorial birds and juveniles (Miles et al. 1999). The shining cuckoo and brown kiwi were not seen in late winter 1978 by Bellingham (1979) but had been recorded earlier for the island. Paradise shelduck, mallard duck, pukeko, spur-winged plover, galah, eastern rosella, song thrush, fernbird and goldfinch records are additional to the bird list by Bellingham (1979).

The only mammals we saw during our visit were the farmed sheep and cattle. David Chamberlin informed me that feral mammals on the island include: mice, kiore (hasn't seen any for a while), ship rats, stoats (only a few), wild cats, and c.5 feral goats (c.12 yrs old, not breeding, will be left to die out). Possums, rabbits, pigs and probably Norway rats are absent (D. Chamberlin *pers. comm.*, May 2000).

Introduced tiger slugs were present by the woolshed.

#### Discussion

In terms of its flora, Ponui is an important island in the Hauraki Gulf that has only partially been explored and its flora documented. Because of the boating problems we only had 3 hours ashore, but we still managed to add 94 new vascular plant species, an initial moss list and the start of a lichen list. Auckland Bot Soc intends to revisit the island in October 2000, which hopefully will result in a complete vascular plant list for the southern part of the island.

#### **APPENDIX:**

#### **Wild plants seen during Bot Soc visit 20 Nov 1999 on Ponui Island (with additional weed records from David & Ros Chamberlin)**

A = addition to the list by Brown (1979)

AK = voucher in Auckland Museum herbarium from Bot Soc trip

DRC = David & Ros Chamberlin *pers. comm.*, May 2000

\* = adventive species

Ferns and fern allies (23 + 0)

(= native + adventive)

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Asplenium flaccidum*  
*A. polyodon*  
*Blechnum filiforme*  
*B. novae-zelandiae*  
*Ctenopteris heterophylla*  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Deparia petersenii*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Doodia australis*  
*Grammitis ciliata*  
*Hymenophyllum demissum*  
*H. rarum*  
*Lastreopsis glabella*  
*Lygodium articulatum*  
*Microsorium pustulatum*  
*M. scandens*  
*Pteridium esculatum*  
*Pteris macilenta*  
*P. tremula*  
*Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*  
*Tmesipteris elongata* subsp. *elongata*  
*Trichomanes reniforme*

Conifers (2 + 2)

*Agathis australis*  
*Cupressus macrocarpa*\*  
*Pinus radiata*\*  
*Prumnopitys ferruginea*

Dicotyledons (49 + 61)

*Acaena novae-zelandiae* A  
*Ageratina adenophora*\* A  
*Amaranthus deflexus*\* A, AK 247093  
*Anagallis arvensis* var. *arvensis*\*  
*A. arvensis* var. *coerulea*\* A  
*Araujia sericifera*\* A (DRC)  
*Atriplex prostrata*\*  
*Avicennia marina*  
*Beilschmiedia tarairi*  
*B. tawa/tawaroa*  
*Bellis perennis*\* A  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Callitriche muelleri* A  
*C. stagnalis*\*  
*Calystegia sepium* A  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*\* A  
*Carduus pycnocephalus/*  
*tenuiflorus*\* A (DRC)  
*Cerastium glomeratum*\* A  
*C. semidecandrum*\* A, AK 247094  
*Cirsium nutans*\* A (DRC)  
*C. vulgare*\* A  
*Clematis paniculata*  
*Coprosma arborea*  
*C. rhamnoides*  
*Coriaria arborea*  
*Cotula coronopifolia* A  
*Crataegus monogyna*\* A  
*Crepis capillaris*\* A  
*Dichondra repens*  
*Dysoxylum spectabile*  
*Entelea arborescens*  
*Erodium moschatum*\* A  
*Euchiton gymnocephalus* A  
*Galium aparine*\* A

*Gamochaeta spicata*  
(*Gnaphalium coarctatum*)\* A  
*Geniostoma rupestre*  
*Geranium dissectum*\* A, AK 247084  
*G. molle*\* A  
*G. solanderi* "coarse hairs"\* A, AK 247076  
*Hydrocotyle moschata* A  
*Hypericum japonicum* A, AK 247092  
*Hypochoeris radicata*\* A  
*Knightsia excelsa*  
*Kunzea ericoides*  
*Lagenifera pumila* A  
*Leptocophylla juniperina*  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Linum bienne*\* A  
*L. trigynum*\* A  
*Lotus angustissimus*\* A  
*L. pedunculatus*\* A  
*Ludwigia palustris*\* A  
*Lycium ferocissimum*\*  
*Malva parvifolia*\* A, AK 242612  
*Medicago lupulina*\* A, AK 242614-15  
*Mentha pulegium*\* A  
*Metrosideros diffusa*  
*M. excelsa*  
*M. excelsa* x *M. robusta* A  
*M. perforata*  
*Mida salicifolia*  
*Modiola caroliniana*\* A  
*Muehlenbeckia complexa*  
*Myosotis laxa*\* A  
*Myrsine australis*  
*Nasturtium officinale*\* A  
*Nestegis lanceolata*  
*Olearia furfuracea*  
*O. rani*  
*Oxalis corniculata/exilis*  
*Parsonia* ? *heterophylla*  
*Phytolacca octandra*\*  
*Plantago coronopus*\* A  
*P. lanceolata*\*  
*P. major*\* A  
*Polycarpon tetraphyllum*\* A  
*Polygonum salicifolium* A  
*Portulacca octandra*\* A  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius*  
*P. crassifolius* x *P. lessonii*  
*Ranunculus reflexus*  
*R. repens*\* A  
*R. sardous*\* A  
*Rosa rubiginosa*\* A, AK 247072  
*Rubus cissoides*  
*Rubus fruticosus*\* A (DRC)  
*Rumex pulcher*\* A  
*Samolus repens*  
*Sherardia arvensis*\* A  
*Senecio bipinnatisectus*\* A  
*S. jacobaea*\* A  
*Sisymbrium officinale*\* A  
*Solanum americanum*  
*S. linnaeanum*\* A (DRC)  
*S. mauritianum*\* A  
*Soliva* ? *sessilis*\* A (DRC)  
*Sonchus asper*\* A  
*S. oleraceus*\*  
*Sperularia media* A  
*Syzygium maire* A, AK 242616

*Trifolium dubium*\* A  
*T. glomeratum*\* A  
*T. repens*\* A  
*Ulex europaeus*\*  
*Veronica plebeia* AK 247088  
*V. serpyllifolia*\* A, AK 247082  
*Vitex lucens*  
*Wahlenbergia violacea* A  
*Xanthium spinosum*\* A (DRC)

Monocotyledons (23 + 32)

*Acianthus sinclairii*  
*Aira caryophyllea*\*  
*Anthoxanthum odoratum*\*  
*Briza minor*\* A  
*Bromus hordeaceus*\* A  
*Caladenia chlorostyla* A, AK 247091  
*Carex dissita* AK 247090, 247097  
*C. lessoniana* A  
*C. virgata*  
*Catapodium rigidum*\* A  
*Collospermum hastatum*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Cortaderia* ? *jubata*\* (DRC)  
*Corybas trilobus* A  
*Critesion murinum* subsp. *murinum*\* A, AK 247079  
*Cynodon dactylon*\* A  
*Cyperus ustulatus*  
*Dactylis glomerata*\*  
*Dichelachne rara*\* A  
*Drymoanthus adversus*  
*Gahnia lacera*  
*Glyceria declinata*\* A, AK 247085  
*G. maxima*\* A  
*Holcus lanatus*\* A  
*Isolepis reticularis* A  
*Juncus acuminatus*\* A, AK 242613  
*J. dichotomus*\* A, AK 247081  
*J. effusus*\*  
*J. flavidus*\* A, AK 247083  
*J. kraussii*  
*J. tenuis*\* A  
*Lepidospermum australe*  
*Lolium perenne*\* A  
*L. rigidum*\* A  
*Luzula congesta*\* A, AK 247087  
*Microlaena stipoides* A  
*Oplismenus hirtellus*  
*Parapholis incurva*\*  
*Paspalum distichum*\* A  
*Phalaris aquatica*\* A  
*Poa anceps*  
*P. annua*\* A  
*P. trivialis*\* A  
*Polypogon monspeliensis*\* A  
*Pterostylis banksii* A  
*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Rytidosperma racemosum*\* A  
*R. pilosum*\* A  
*Schoenoplecton tabernaemontani* A  
*Sporobolus africanus*\*  
*Stenotaphrum secundatum*\*  
*Typha orientalis*  
*Uncinia banksii*  
*U. uncinata* A  
*Vulpia bromoides*\* A

