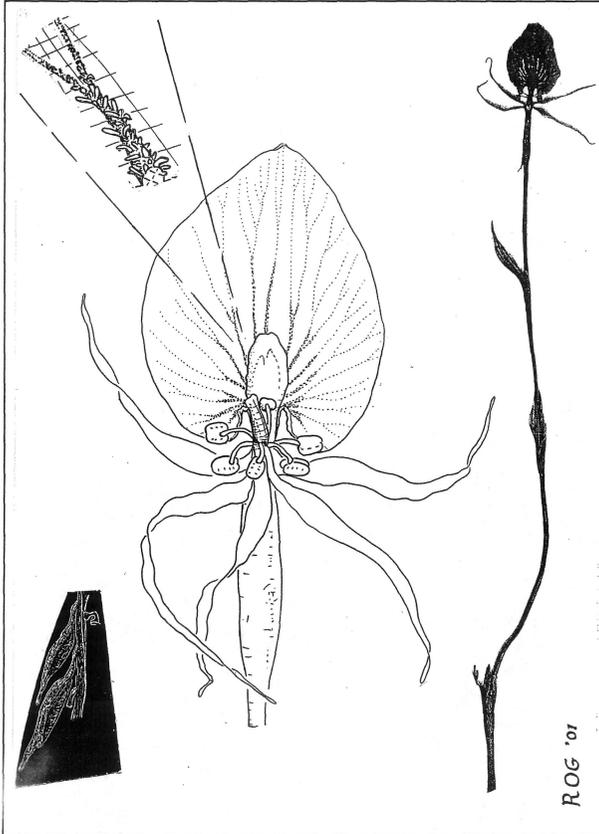


Pixies in someone else's garden: a *Corsia* illustrated

Rhys Gardner

Corsia merimantaensis P.Royen (Corsiaceae)

This beautiful little saprophyte was found in beech forest at c. 2200 m in the Schrader Range, Papua New Guinea. Like similar plants in the Burmanniaceae, Triuridaceae and Orchidaceae, corsias spend much of the year just as under-ground rhizomatous growths, and flower mostly in the wetter seasons.



The resemblance of corsias to orchids is through convergence, a fundamental difference being that in the former group it is the rear sepal that is modified into a labellum - in orchids it is the rear petal.

Illustrated (Fig. 1) the above-ground part of the plant (ROG 10016) with its 3 scale leaves and single wine-coloured 3-merous flower, the most conspicuous feature of this being the upright slightly hooded labellum, which has a central basal callus from which diverge papillose-ornamented nerves (upper left). The fruit of this plant is, as in orchids, a 3-valved capsule, and contains numerous spindle-shaped seeds pendent on long funicles (lower left). Labellum is 1 cm wide; seeds incl. funicle are 2.5 mm long.

Fig. 1
Corsia merimantaensis
P.Royen (Corsiaceae).

Lucy Cranwell Track, and others, Piha

Sarah Flynn

19 May 2001 field trip led by Sandra Jones.

Despite a fairly damp, dark and ominous-looking morning, a sizeable crowd of thirty Bot-Soccers assembled at the entrance to Kauri Grove track on the side of the road to Piha. This walk descends through one of the western catchments of the Waitakere Ranges. According to Denyer *et al.* (1993), this is the only catchment in the Waitakere

District containing a continuous sequence of mature vegetation from coastal, through to alluvial flat, rugged hill country and high relief, and includes the only alluvial vegetation in the central Waitakere Ranges that has not been lost through the development of water reservoirs. Very briefly, vegetation comprises a variety of forest types,

including secondary broadleaf and podocarp-broadleaf forest at higher altitudes, and puriri composite forest and inland pohutukawa forest on lower slopes. Stands of kauri and kanuka scrub are also present.

Following some expert mustering and counting on the part of our leader, Sandra Jones, we made our way along the picturesque (but VERY muddy) Kauri Grove and Marguerite Tracks, descending to the Lucy Cranwell Track. Organised as ever, Sandra deposited her labelled cards along the track in order to draw our attention to botanical features of interest – a wonderful strategy to ensure we gave due attention to flora both great (including handsome specimens of *Libocedrus plumosa*, *Pseudowintera axillaris*, *Ixerba brexioides*, *Pittosporum kirkii* and *P. ellipticum*) - and small – the filmy “scrubbing brush” fern *Hymenophyllum scabrum* proving a popular favourite with its rubbery-feeling little bristles on the underside of the lamina. Anne Grace brought up the rear, to collect up the cards and ensure the more overly enthusiastic of us weren't left behind!

A nice comparison was made between *Astelia trinerva*, *A. solandri* and *A. nervosa*, for those of us that hadn't sorted out the differences between these three. And even better, a quick method for distinguishing *Mida salicifolia* from *Nestegis lanceolata* was pointed out (for the record, *N. lanceolata* has dull leaves, always in opposite pairs; whereas leaves of *M. salicifolia* are shining, and variable – sometimes opposite, sometimes not).

Conditions got pretty rugged and sloppy in places, and our party ended up very spread out. The front runners slowed their pace to give the others a chance to catch up (Sandra even had a bit of an impromptu lie-down), but after lunch it was decided that we separate into slow and “fast” groups for the comfort of all.

References

Denyer, K.; Cutting, M.; Cambell, G.; Green, C.; Hilton, M. 1993: Waitakere Ecological District Survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. Auckland Regional Council

Acknowledgement:

Species list compiled by Harry Beachem, Helen Cogle, Anne Grace and Sandra Jones during April and May 2001, with a couple of additions on the day of the Bot Soc field trip.

Plant list for the Lucy Cranwell Track/Piha Gorge:

Fern Ferns & Allies

Adiantum cunninghamii
Adiantum fulvum
Adiantum hispidulum
Adiantum viridescens
Anarthropteris lanceolata
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum discolor
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fluviatile
Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum novae zelandiae
Ctenopteris heterophylla
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris

Cyathea smithii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Doodia australis
Doodia mollis
Grammitis ciliata
Histiopteris incisa
Huperzia varia
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum dilatatum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Hymenophyllum lyallii
Hymenophyllum multifidum
Hymenophyllum revolutum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Hymenophyllum scabrum
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea linearis
Lindsaea trichomanoides

Lycopodium deuterodensum
Lycopodium volubile
Lygodium articulatum
Microsorium pustulatum ssp.
pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris macilentia
Pteris saxatilis
Pteris tremula
Pteris comans x *P. saxatilis*
Rumohra adiantiformis
Schizaea bifida
Sticherus cunninghamii
Tmesipteris elongata ssp.
elongata
Tmesipteris lanceolata

Tmesipteris ?sigmatifolia
Tmesipteris tannensis
Trichomanes elongatum
Trichomanes reniforme

Gymnosperms

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

Dicotyledons

Alectryon excelsus
Aleuosmia macrophylla
Aristolelia serrata

Of course, the up-side of all this dampness was the wonderful, many and varied proliferations of fungi. The most spectacular of these was certainly the brilliant indigo-coloured *Entoloma hochstetteri* toadstool, and also the curious, floral *Aserve rubra* fungus. Less dramatic but still rather beautiful were the numerous coralline structures, flabby pink-brown “Jew's ears” mushrooms (with apologies for the name), and a variety of puff-balls.

We admired the view, plus *Rumohra adiantiformis* and *Melicope simplex*, as we crossed the top of Kitekite Falls beside the site of an old driving dam, and descended steeply down beside the falls to join Kitekite Track. At this point, the rain set in! However, undaunted, we botanised on, and were rewarded with a nice comparison of *Doodia australis* and *D. mollis* growing side by side.

The weather cleared briefly, just in time for a foray up the Winstone track and a nervous inspection of some wasp-infested *Korthalsella salicornioides*. This escapade was worth the risk, being the only known site for this mistletoe in the Waitakere Ranges (according to Bec Stanley, *K. salicornioides* is recorded in fifteen sites within the Auckland Region, but most are on Great Barrier). However, for the fainter hearted, some less challenging features of interest included *Schizaea bifida* and the onion-like orchid *Genoplesium pumilum*, still in flower.

The rain set in good and proper this time, but we persevered despite our soggianness, stopping briefly to admire a stand of *Syzygium maire* that is regarded as the “best and only” example of its type in the Waitakere Ecological District (Denyer *et al.* 1993). Sandra ended with a botanical flourish, presenting a comparison of *Pteris macilentia*, *P. saxatilis*, *P. tremula* and *P. comans* x *P. saxatilis* all growing together right next to the carpark.

<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	<i>Parsonsia</i> sp.	<i>Cordyline banksii</i>
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle dissecta</i>	<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	<i>Cordyline ?australis</i> x <i>C. pumilio</i>
<i>Brachyglottis kirkii</i> var. <i>angustior</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle elongata</i>	<i>Peperomia urvilleana</i>	<i>Dianella nigra</i>
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	<i>Ixerba brexioides</i>	<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>
<i>Callitriche muelleri</i>	<i>Knightsia excelsa</i>	<i>Pittosporum ellipticum</i>	<i>Gahnia lacera</i>
<i>Calystegia tuguriorum</i>	<i>Korthalsella salicornioides</i>	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	<i>Gahnia pauciflora</i>
<i>Cardamine debilis</i>	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	<i>Pittosporum kirkii</i>	<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	<i>Gahnia xanthocarpa</i>
<i>Centella uniflora</i>	<i>Leionema nudum</i>	<i>Pomaderris phyllicifolia</i> var. <i>ericifolia</i>	<i>Isolepis reticularis</i>
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>	<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i>	<i>Libertia ?grandiflora</i>
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	<i>Pseudowintera axillaris</i>	<i>Morelotia affinis</i>
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	<i>Quintinia serrata</i>	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i>	<i>Phormium tenax</i> (planted)
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	<i>Ranunculus solandri</i>	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>
<i>Coprosma spathulata</i>	<i>Melicope simplex</i>	<i>Rubus australis</i>	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
<i>Coriaria arborea</i>	<i>Melicope temate</i> (planted, at Glen Esk car park)	<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>
<i>Corokia buddleioides</i> var. <i>buddleioides</i>	<i>Melicycus macrophyllus</i>	<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	<i>Schoenus tendo</i>
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	<i>Melicycus micranthus</i>	<i>Senecio minimus</i>	<i>Uncinia banksii</i>
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	<i>Melicycus ramiflorus</i>	<i>Sophora fulvida</i>	<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>
<i>Dracophyllum latifolium</i>	<i>Metrosideros carminea</i>	<i>Syzygium maire</i>	
<i>Dracophyllum sinclairii</i>	<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	<i>Toronia toru</i>	Orchids
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	<i>Vitex lucens</i>	<i>Acianthus sinclairii</i>
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum pygmaeum</i>
<i>Elatostema rugosum</i>	<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>		<i>Corybas acuminatus</i>
<i>Epilobium nerteroides</i>	<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	Monocots excl. grasses & orchids	<i>Corybas oblongus</i>
<i>Euchiton gymnocephalus</i>	<i>Mida salicifolia</i>	<i>Arthropodium cirratum</i>	<i>Earina autumnalis</i>
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	<i>Myrsine australis</i>	<i>Astelia banksii</i>	<i>Earina mucronata</i>
<i>Gonocarpus incanus</i>	<i>Myrsine salicina</i>	<i>Astelia nervosa</i>	<i>Genoplesium pumilio</i>
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	<i>Nertera dichondrifolia</i>	<i>Astelia solandri</i>	<i>Pterostylis trullifolia</i>
<i>Haloragis erecta</i>	<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	<i>Astelia trinervia</i>	<i>Thelymitra</i> sp
<i>Hebe macrocarpa</i> var. <i>macrocarpa</i>	<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>	<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	<i>Olearia rani</i>	<i>Carex dissita</i>	
<i>Helichrysum lanceolatum</i>	<i>Olearia solandri</i> (planted, at Glen Esk car park)	<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	Grasses
		<i>Cordyline australis</i>	<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>
			<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> ssp. <i>imbecillis</i>

Rosalie Bay - Great Barrier Island: 2-5 Feb 2001

Steve McCraith & Kerry Bodmin

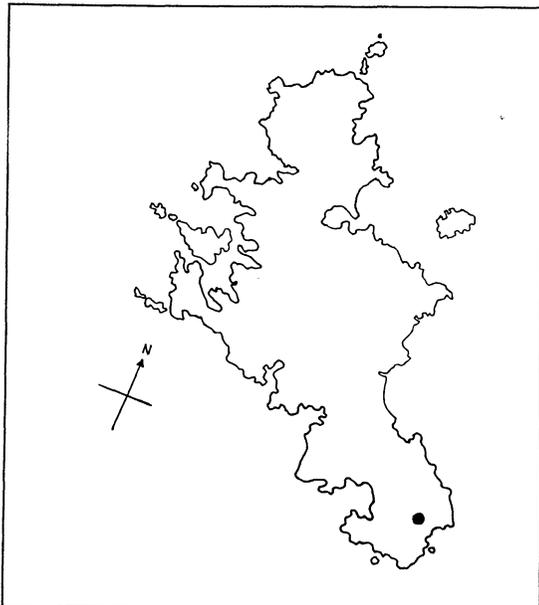


Fig. 1: Location of Benthorn Farm, Rosalie Bay, Great Barrier Island

Fri 2 Feb

At 6.30pm several Auckland Botanical Society members set off from Auckland aboard the Fullers ferry bound for Great Barrier Island in the outer Hauraki Gulf. The aim for the weekend was to carry out a botanical survey for landowners Peter and Helga Speck at their farm (Benthorn) in Rosalie Bay, on the southeastern corner of the island. After a smooth ferry crossing, a good half hour spent locating bags and packs in the absence of light on the wharf at Tryphena and a van ride over the hill down a seemingly precarious road the crew arrived at our residence for the next few days. We were greeted by Peter and Helga and plied with wine and pasta (a fine first impression I must say). Bedding arrangements were made, some inside, others in tents and everyone eventually wandered off in search of sleep.

Sat 3 Feb

After being woken by the local rooster population and downing more of the seemingly endless coffee supply plans were made for the day. Rosalie Bay lies at the bottom of a large valley.

Benthorn Farm is located about halfway up the valley on a large plateau that allows for excellent views of the valley itself and, further out, to the sea. The slopes of a hill on the eastern

side of the valley were to be botanised in order to compile a species list. This was the main area proposed for possible consideration as a conservation covenant. A gentle climb up through mature manuka bush followed the ridgeline. This soon gave way to a diverse broadleaf forest with many mature trees including puriri, coprosma,