

THE CUTTY GRASS TRACK

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Jean King.

What an enjoyable day it was for the small band who turned out for the Cutty Grass Track walk on that beautiful day of April 19th. For this was a walk with purpose - "Beat the Previous Checklist" - a little competition that the humblest amateur could attempt. So armed with our lists and pencils we eagerly set forth, busily ticking off names and feeling very superior when we spotted something not on the list: What were those previous botanists doing to leave out Brachyglottis repanda, for instance? On the debit side, where had they seen Litsea calicaris?

The bus-driver's concern that we would be back in a couple of hours, fretting to go on somewhere else, was quite unfounded. The end of the track was only achieved after 3 - 4 hours because hunger took over from botanical enthusiasm.

Nothing very rich or rare was discovered but the quintinias in particular were looking extremely handsome. Perhaps the wet summer has suited them. MS.

On Sphagnum falcatulum. Three small colonies (one not very happy, its puddle has been drained) growing in a few millimetres of overflowing ditch water. This appears to be the only record for the Waitakeres (Linzey in Mead 1972 p20). It has survived here for many years but still surprises me, since Sphagnum as a bog genus, normally occurs in much deeper and larger bodies of water, S. falcatulum in particular often growing completely submerged in open water.

On Blechnum minus. What was the main clump of this fern has been sprayed (for gorse?) and killed right back. Pity! Fortunately there are several small colonies and odd plants scattered on either side of the track. EDH.

The following plants noted previously were not seen this time but are probably still there, especially the clematis and the orchids which are unobtrusive unless flowering.

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum    Ctenopteris heterophylla    Lindsaea trichomanoides

Gymnosperms

Podocarpus totara

Monocotyledons

Pterostylis banksii    Thelymitra longifolia

Dicotyledons

Clematis paniculata    Lophomyrtus bullata    Pseudopanax anomalus

Coprosma robusta    Melicytus micranthus

Litsea calicaris    Olearia paniculata

A lone Metrosideros excelsa grows on the Anawhata Road about four chains along towards Auckland. Two doubtful sightings which need specimens to verify them were: Beilschmiedia tarairi and Sisyrinchium iridifolium. Both are known in other parts of the ranges. As Rhys Gardner in an article in the Journal of Botany has classed the old Alseuosmia quercifolia as a hybrid the earlier reference has been omitted. JB.

The following is the 1980 list. Plants that had not been recorded on the two earlier field trips, June 1969 and November 1976, are marked with an asterisk.

MOSS

- \* *Sphagnum falcatulum*

FERNS & FERN ALLIES

- \* *Anarthropteris lanceolata*
- \* *Asplenium falcatum*
  - A. flaccidum*
  - A. lucidum*
- Blechnum capense*
- B. discolor*
- \* *B. filiforme*
- B. fraseri*
- B. minus*
- Cyathea dealbata*
- C. medullaris*
- C. smithii*
- Dicksonia squarrosa*
- Histiopteris incisa*
- \* *Hymenophyllum demissum*
  - H. dilatatum*
  - H. flabellatum*
- \* *H. rarum*
- \* *H. sanguinolentum*
- \* *Lycopodium billardieri*
- \* *L. volubile*
- Lygodium articulatum*
- Microsorium diversifolium*
- Paesia scaberula*
- \* *Pteridium esculentum*
- Rumohra adiantiformis*
- \* *Tmesipteris* sp. (?tannensis)
- Trichomanes reniforme*

GYMNOSPERMS

- Agathis australis*
- Dacrydium cupressinum*
- \* *Phyllocladus trichomanoides*
- \* *Podocarpus dacrydioides*
  - P. ferrugineus*
  - P. hallii*

MONOCOTYLEDONS

- Astelia solanfri*
- A. trinervia*
- \* *Collospermum hastatum*
- \* *Cordyline australis*
  - C. banksii*
- Dendrobium cunninghamii*
- Dianella nigra*
- \* *Earina autumnalis*
  - E. mucronata*
- Freycinetia banksii*
- Gahnia satifolia*
- G. xanthocarpa*
- \* *Lepidosperma australe*
- \* *Luzula banksiana*
- \* *Microlaena avenaeae*
- \* *Phormium tenax*
  - Rhopalostylis sapida*
  - Ripogonum scandens*

DICOTYLEDONS

- Alseuosmia macrophylla*
- \* *Aristotelia serrata*
- \* *Beilschmiedia tarairi*
  - B. tawa*
- \* *Brachyglottis repanda*
- Carpodetus serratus*
- \* *Centella uniflora*
  - Coprosma arborea*
  - C. australis*
  - C. lucida*
  - Cyathodes fasciculata*
  - Dracophyllum latifolium*
- \* *Dysoxylum spectabile*
- Elaeocarpus dentatus*
- \* *Fuchsia excorticata*
- \* *Geniostoma ligustrifolium*
  - Griselinia lucida*
  - Haloragis erecta*
- \* *Hebe macrocarpa*
  - H. stricta*
- Leptospermum ericoides*
- L. scoparium*
- \* *Lobelia anceps*
  - Melicytus macrophyllus*
  - M. ramiflorus*
  - Metrosideros fulgens*
- \* *M. perforata*
- Myrsine australis*
- M. salicina*
- \* *Nertera dichondraefolia*
  - Nestegis lanceolata*
  - N. montana*
  - Olearia furfuracea*
  - O. rani*
- \* *Parsonsia capsularis*
  - Pittosporum tenuifolium*
  - Pseudopanax arboreus*
  - P. crassifolius*
  - P. edgerleyi*
  - Quintinea serrata*

Hedycarya arborea  
 \* Helichrysum glomeratum  
 Hoheria populnea  
 Ixerba brexioides  
 Knightia excelsa  
 Laurelia novae-zelandiae

Rubus australis  
 R. cissoides  
 Schefflera digitata  
 Senecio kirkii  
 \* Vitex lucens

\* SOME ADVENTIVE PLANTS

Agrostis tenuis  
 Axonopus affinis  
 Centaurium erythraea  
 Juncus bufonius  
 J. effusus

Lotus pedunculatus  
 Paspalum dilatatum  
 Plantago lanceolata  
 Ulex europaeus

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WAHARAU FIELD TRIP

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The following checklist was compiled from reports after a field trip to the ARA Regional Park at Waharau on 19th July, 1980. The list is by no means complete, no orchids have been included, and some of the identifications may be in doubt.

FERNS & FERN ALLIES

Anarthropteris lanceolata  
 Asplenium bulbiferum  
 A. falcatum  
 A. flaccidum  
 A. lucidum  
 Blechnum capense  
 B. chambersii  
 B. filiforme  
 B. ?penna-marina  
 Ctenopteris heterophylla  
 Cyathea dealbata  
 C. medullaris  
 Dicksonia squarrosa  
 Doodia media  
 Gleichenia ?dicarpa  
 G. ?microphylla  
 Hymenophyllum demissum  
 H. dilatatum

H. multifidum  
 H. sanguinolentum  
 H. scabrum  
 Lindsaea linearis  
 Lycopodium deuterodensum  
 L. laterale  
 L. scariosum  
 L. volubile  
 Lygodium articulatum  
 Microsorium diversifolium  
 Ophioglossum sp.  
 Paesia scaberula  
 Polystichum richardii  
 Pteridium esculentum  
 Pyrrosia serpens  
 Rumohra adiantiformis  
 Schizea fistulosa  
 Thelypteris pennigera  
 Todea hymenophylloides  
 Trichomanes reniforme

GYMNOSPERMS

Agathis australis  
 Dacrydium cupressinum  
 Phyllocladus trichomanoides

Podocarpus ferrugineus (seedlings  
 P. totara only)