

terrestrials: Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii, leaves, and plants beginning to set seed; Acianthus reniformis, flowers (It may be worth noting here that this was originally, 1810, placed by Robert Brown in Cyrtostylis, and that our plant does not have the reniform Australian leaves, but more or less oblong ones, and properly belongs in variety oblongus.); Caladenia carnea, leaves (I have in previous years recorded the varieties minor and calliniger here.); Chiloglottis cornuta, leaves; Corybas oblongus, leaves, some with buds, on mossy banks in shade; Corybas orbiculatus, leaves, at waterfall, Farley Track and nearby dripping mossy banks (This plant is perhaps odd in liking to grow in dripping water, and in the Waitakeres at least, is never found in any other habitat.); Corybas trilobus, a late flower (Of interest in that the flowering plants appear few and early in June, followed in August by masses of leaf-only plants. This has something to do with tuber size, only large tubers being capable of producing the flower and tall seeding peduncle.); Microtis unifolia, hollow tubular leaves; Pterostylis alobula, rosettes and flowering plants in forest and scrub; P. banksii, leaves, in forest; P. brumalis, rosettes and plants setting seed (This species appears, no work has been done on it so far, to be associated with the kauri by means of mycorrhizal fungi - see also P. montana var. rubricaulis below.); P. graminea, leaves and some early flowers, in scrub; P. montana var. rubricaulis, flowers (This name was originally intended by Matthews (MS) to have specific rank and this intention was upheld by Rupp. It has never to my knowledge been found out of root-reach of the kauri - see P. brumalis - and to treat it as a widespread variety of P. graminea is to obscure its taxonomic and ecological distinctness.); P. trullifolia, rosettes and some late-flowering plants (The rosette leaves of this species have noticeably embossed veins, but this characteristic also occurs in hybrids with P. alobula, which can cause confusion where the two species occur together.); Thelymitra sp., leaves only (Flowering plants previously recorded from this area include T. aemula, T. carnea, T. formosa, T. intermedia, T. ixioides, T. longifolia and T. pauciflora).

Less than a month after this trip Corybas aconitiflorus, C. macranthus and Drymoanthus adversus were also recorded from this area - Ed.

TAHUNA TOREA

J. Beaver.

Our field trip to Tahuna Torea, 20th September, produced a further list of plants almost exactly as long as our first list. The total now is about 175 of which 81 are natives and 94 exotics.

Two of the most interesting were Coprosma crassifolia which is very local and only known from a few places in this district. The other was Collospermum hastatum which although very common as an epiphyte on large trees was found growing on the ground at the side of the path. How it got there when there are no big trees in the vicinity is a puzzle.

There are still more to be identified especially some garden throw-outs, so if any members identify further items please let the author know.

NATIVEFerns

Adiantum hispidulum
Asplenium lucidum
Blechnum capense
Cyathea dealbata

C. medullaris
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris tremula
Pyrrosia serpens

Gymnosperms

Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus dacrydioides

Podocarpus ferrugineus
(P. totara misclassified in the
previous list.)

Monocotyledons

Carex lambertiana
C. lessoniana
C. virgata
Collosperrum hastatum

Cyperus ustulatus
Oplismenus imbecillus
Scirpus medianus

Dicotyledons

Apium sp. (?filiforme)
Aristotelia serrata
Calystegia soldanella
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosmia crassifolia
C. sp. (?macrocarpa)
Dysoxylum spectabile
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Hebe speciosa (hort.)
Hoheria populnea

Lobelia anceps (brown variety)
Melicytus ramiflorus
Meryta sinclairii
Metrosideros kermadecensis
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia paniculata
Parsonsia heterophylla
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Selliera radicans
Senecio lautus

ADVENTIVEMonocotyledons

Allium triquetrum
Anthoxanthum odoratum
Asparagus asparagoides
Carex divisa
Cyperus involucratus
Freesia sp. (hort.)
Holcus lanatus
Narcissus sp.
Parapholis incurva
Sporobolus africanus
Stenotaphrum secundatum

onion weed
sweet vernal
smilax

cyperus alternifolius, umbrella grass
freesia
Yorkshire fog
narcissi
sickle grass
ratstail
buffalo grass

Dicotyledons

Araujia hortorum
Beschorneria yuccoides
Coronopus didymus
Erechtites atkinsoniae
Erigeron floribundus
Eriobotrya japonica
Eugenia smithii
Fumaria officinalis
Geranium dissectum
G. purpureum
Hypericum androsaemum
Lavatera arborea
Lotus pedunculatus
Medicago polymorpha
Mentha sp.

moth plant
Mexican wonder plant (like a Yucca)
twin cress
Australian fireweed
broad-leaved fleabane
loquat
acmena, lillypilly, monkey apple
fumitory
cut-leaved geranium
purple-stemmed geranium
tutsan
tree mallow
lotus major
bur medick
mint

<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	forget-me-not
<i>Nymphaea</i> sp.	water lily
<i>Omalanthus</i> (<i>Homolanthus</i>) <i>populifolius</i>	bleeding heart tree
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
<i>O. pes-caprae</i> var.	" " with full-yellow sepals
<i>Physalis peruviana</i>	cape gooseberry
<i>Phyllolacca octandra</i>	inkweed
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	narrow-leaved plantain
<i>P. major</i>	broad-leaved plantain
<i>Polygonum</i> sp. (aquatic)	swamp willow weed
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Raphanus</i> sp.	radish
<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	wild turnip
<i>Rosa</i> sp. (hort.)	a climbing rose
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock
<i>Senecio mikanioides</i>	German ivy
<i>S. spathulatus</i>	
<i>Silene gallica</i>	catchfly
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow thistle
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	nasturtium
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	hairy vetch

PERSISTENT GARDEN PLANTS AS HOMESTEAD MARKERS

E.D. Hatch

Between 1850 and 1900, valiant and largely unsuccessful efforts were made to farm the steep and sterile valleys on the northern side of the Manukau Harbour. Every bay and indentation on coast and creek had its hut or its homestead - and its handful of garden flowers.

These dwellings were serviced from the sea and were built literally at the waters edge. Time and the urban sprawl have obliterated all sign of most of them, but in a few instances their sites have proved unsuitable or inaccessible to suburbia, have been left untouched, and their surviving garden plants can be studied - a sort of botanical archaeology.

This note began as a brief survey of one such site - the Purchas homestead (so I am told) in Symonds Bay on the estuary of the Big Muddy Creek. A horseshoe-shaped valley, some half mile across, facing west and rising steeply to its 160 metre watershed with the Laingholm Valley to the east. When I first saw this valley 56 years ago, it was in grass and dotted with the fire-blackened stumps of kauri and rata, but it is now covered by Leptospermum scrub with incipient kauri/podocarp forest.

The mouth of the bay is blocked by a miniature and most interesting crescentic sand dune, formed and maintained by the prevailing south-westerly winds. The floor of the valley must earlier on have been a Phormium/Cordyline swamp but at some time after 1853 two deep ditches were dug - one across the eastern edge of the flat, deflecting the converging streams northward round the dune into a little tidal creek - the other right through the centre of the dune. These effectively drained the swamp and converted the flat into wet pasture with scattered Phormium and very old, much branched Cordyline australis.