

<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.

The valley floor, where I once saw cattle grazing, is now smothered with gorse and blackberry, and Senecio mikanoides which even grows as an epiphyte in the forks of the Cordyline. The homestead appears to have been built on a knoll on the southern edge of the flat and is marked by fig (Ficus carica), plum (Prunus domestica), crack willow (Salix fragilis), and a rambling rose.

Arum lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica), snowflake (Leucojum aestivum), and a polyanthus Narcissus tazetta are abundant. Plants like the honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) and periwinkle (Vinca major) are common in the district generally and may be part of the original garden or may have come in since.

The micro-flora of the little dune is worth recording for its own sake - Apium filiforme, Carex pumila, Cyperus ustulatus, Juncus maritimus var. australiensis, Leptocarpus similis, Plagianthus divaricatus, Plantago coronopus, Poa anceps, Salicornia australis, Samolus repens, Scirpus cernuus, S. fluviatilis, S. nodosus and Selliera radicans.

On the seaward side of the dune the mud and the mangrove come right up to the sand, so that there is barely room to walk between the mangroves and the dune edge. Further out, in the estuary proper, Zostera muelleri is abundant and frequently washes ashore in great quantities.

SOME ADVENTIVE RECORDS FROM THE WAITAKERE RANGE

J. Mackinder.

A few of the more interesting adventive plants that have been found recently in the Waitakeres are noted here. Voucher specimens have been collected but the identifications have still to be confirmed.

Alstroemeria aurantiaca Peruvian lily. Not a lily as its common name suggests since it has ovary inferior. Found in two locations; well established and flowering late November on a roadside bank, Te Henga Road, and a few small plants, not flowering but recognisable from the odd twist in the leaves, at a roadside layby on Scenic Drive below Ruaotuwenua. Both locations could be described as small, unofficial rubbish dumps.

Lobelia sp. Cultivated form. One plant collected April 1980, from Scenic Drive, near Pukematekeo. A more persistent patch occurs on Scenic Drive at Waiatarua. In flower and collected December 1980.

Oenothera sp. Evening primrose. One plant only seen, in flower and collected from stony ground, roadside, Piha Road, at the Anawhata turnoff.

Ornithopus perpusillus Birdsfoot. From the Anawhata Road, between Cutty Grass Track and Piha Road. An isolated plant with both flowers and seed pods, late November, growing in hard, stony ground at the edge of the road.