

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.