*Vulpia bromoides** lc Mainly coastal slopes

Updated vascular flora for the seven-island chain east and southeast of Waiheke Island

Ewen K. Cameron

This update to the published island chain vascular flora of the islands east and southeast of Waiheke Island of Cameron et al. (2007) is based on: a short visit to Tarahiki Island and part of Ponui Island (Scully Reef) (see below); the 2009 survey of Pakatoa Island (Cameron 2010); the additional two surveys of Pakihi Island (Cameron 2009); and some extra information regarding Rotoroa and Karamuramu Islands (see this article). For the location of these islands see Cameron et al. (2007: fig. 1). Updated flora totals are given in Table 1 – Rotoroa Island and "Ruthe Islet" flora totals are unchanged from Cameron et al. (2007).

Table 1. Wild vascular plant totals in different groups, area, maximum height and proximity to a larger island for the seven islands E and SE of Waiheke Island.

Plant Group	**Ta***	**Paka**	**Rot**	**Rut**	**Pon**	**Paki**	**Kar**	**Totals**
Native ferns & fern allies	14	17	26	8	75	28	3	**81**
Native conifers	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	**8**
Native dicots	51	57	99	49	112	77	18	**147**
Native monocots	27	22	48	16	85	50	7	**104**
Native sub total	*92*	*96*	*174*	*73*	*280*	*155*	*28*	***340***
Naturalised fern & fern allies	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	**2**
Naturalised conifers	-	3	4	1	3	3	1	**5**
Naturalised dicots	30	88	153	23	96	102	47	**221**
Naturalised monocots	20	25	65	14	45	44	22	**84**
Naturalised sub total	*49*	*117*	*224*	*38*	*144*	*149*	*70*	***312***
Overall totals	**142**	**213**	**398**	**111**	**424**	**304**	**98**	**652**
% native	65	45	44	66	66	51	29	**52**
Area, height, & distance to a larger island								
Area (ha) (from Taylor 1989)	5.9	29.3	90.0	0.6	1795	114	7.3	**[2042]**
ASL (m)	68	60	76	20	173	125	20	
Prox. to a larger island (km)	2.5	0.7	0.9	0.2	1.3	1.3	0.4	

*__Ta__ = Tarahiki, __Paka__ = Pakatoa, __Rot__ = Rotoroa, __Rut__ = "Ruthe Islet", __Pon__ = Ponui, __Paki__ = Pakihi, __Kar__ = Karamarama Islands

Tarahiki (Shag Island) - vascular plant additions

On 6 Jan 2010 with a three others I circumnavigated Tarahiki by boat and went ashore for c.1 hour, landing by the main beach on the west side, climbing up to and around the summit area and descended to the SW coast. Six to seven new vascular plant records were added to the island's flora of Cameron et al. (2007), two earlier records were confirmed and three appeared to require their abundance status changed (see below). None of the additions were additional to the island chain flora of Cameron et al. (2007).

Symbols

a = abundant, c = common, o = occasional, l = local, lc = locally common, s = scarce,

* = naturalised species, AK = herbarium voucher number

New records for Tarahiki

*Anthoxanthum odoratum** lc, on dry E-facing ridge. AK 308748

*Atriplex prostrata** l, back of main beach on W side

*Cortaderia selloana** l, on huge bare slip on W side (slip present in Sep 2007, pers. ob.)

Dianella latissima lc, just W of summit. AK 308738. Unsure if this is new or simply replaces the previous *D. nigra* record

*Leontodon taraxacoides** s, back of main beach on W side

Rytidosperma unarede lc, open sites

*Vulpia bromoides** lc, open sites

Confirmation of two 1988 records and abundance rankings added

*Cirsium vulgare** s, lower bush margin, W side of island

*Polycarpon tetraphyllum** lc, open sites

Suggested changes to previous abundance rankings

Collospermum hastatum lc (was previously a)

Hebe stricta o (lc)

Pyrrosia eleagnifolia lc (a)

Rotoroa Island – additional comments

Early herbarium specimens – there are at least five early collections from "Ruth's Island" (= Rotoroa

Island) held in Te Papa Museum herbarium (WELT) collected by Donald Petrie in Dec 1894: *Bromus diandrus, Lachnagrostis billardierei, Metrosideros excelsa, Pseudopanax lessonii* and *Rytidosperma racemosum*. These appear to be the first herbarium collections from the island. None are additions to the flora of Rotoroa Island (Cameron et al. 2007).

Correction – to the year of several of the figure captions of Cameron (2007): figs. 2, 8, 9 – should all be 2006 (not 2007).

Ponui Island – 4 additions from Scully Reef (NE Ponui Id)

On 6 Jan 2010 with a three others I briefly (c.20 mins.) visited Scully Reef when it was close to low tide.

New records for Ponui Island from Scully Reef

*Bromus diandrus** l, low turf vegetation on rock

*Cakile maritima** s, back of small sandy beach, S side of Reef

Einadia trigonos l, low turf vegetation on rock

Senecio quadridentatus l, on a single bare rock stack – this is also an addition to the island chain flora of Cameron et al. (2007). AK 308736

Karamuramu Island – one deletion

The *Cakile* specimens at AK herbarium were recently examined by Roger Cousins who corrected several *C. edentula* determinations to the hornless-fruiting form of *C. maritima*. This now leaves the only Auckland region collection of *C. edentula* in AK as one from Long Bay (Auckland's North Shore), collected in 1982 (AK 271677). Therefore it now seems more likely that the *C. edentula* sight record from Karamuramu Island was much more likely to be the hornless fruiting form of *C. maritima* (unfortunately there was no voucher for this record). *Cakile edentula* is now deleted from the island chain list totals in Table 1.

Conclusions

With additional field work Tarahiki, Pakatoa and Ponui Islands (the lesser botanically explored of the seven-island chain) should still provide a reasonable number of additional records – the other four islands have now been more fully botanically explored.

Acknowledgements

John McCallum for boat transport, and John, Mark Bellingham and Mike Lee for good company on a short visit to Tarahiki Island and Scully Reef; Roger Cousins for the *Cakile* determinations; Pat Brownsey for Rotoroa Island herbarium specimens held at Te Papa (WELT).

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Russell Peninsula Labour Weekend camp, 23-27 October 2009

Maureen Young

Introduction

The Russell Peninsula, to the east of the Bay of Islands, and with a base rock of greywacke, could be considered to run from Oakura Bay to Cape Brett. The coastline consists of indented bays, several small peninsulas, and in sheltered sites, some well-preserved salt-marshes and estuaries. The terrain is hilly, and the vegetation very largely modified.

Our accommodation for Labour Weekend was the Kaingahoa Marae, at Kaingahoa Bay, Rawhiti. This marae was built in 1908 as the local school, on land given to the Government by Rewiri Ahitapu, so his people could be educated. When the school closed in 1968 it was returned to the whanau. The building is now being renovated and we camped in among the detritus of this work. However, to hardy veterans of past Mimiwhangata and Waima Camps it was reasonably civilised. The dim light from the one weak light bulb in the kitchen/dining area resulted in a tin of beetroot being opened in mistake for boysenberries, and the botanical scrabblers having to wear headlamps to proceed with their game.

Trip participants (13 people): Jan Butcher, Helen Cogle, Bev & Geoff Davidson, Marcel Horvath, Helen Lyons, John Millett, John & Stella Rowe, Alison Wesley, Diana Whimp, Philip Wrigley, Maureen Young (Leader).

Friday (23 Oct)

With the exception of one late arrival, all were at the marae in time for the promised powhiri, for which we had prepared, but which didn't eventuate. After some considerable cleaning we settled into our quarters.

Saturday (24 Oct): Oke Bay & Russell Walkway

A very short drive took us to Oke Bay, to look at the coastal maire (*Nestegis apetala*) growing there. This is largely a tree of the off-shore islands, but it touches the mainland occasionally in the Bay of Islands and on Bream Head. A month previously the green fruit was just developing a red blush, but to the disappointment of photographers the fruit had all disappeared. A