

**Plant Profile: *Prumnopitys ferruginea* (D. Don) Laubenf.
By Barbara Anderson**

Family: Podocarpaceae

Genus: *Prumnopitys* Philippi

Common Names: Miro, Brown pine

The timber is used for cabinet-work and the gum is said to have medicinal value (Mabberley 1997). According to *Te Rongoa Maori* (Williams 1996): “An infusion of the leaves and bark was used by bushmen as an antiseptic and insecticide. ... The gum from the bark was applied to wounds and ulcers, and an infusion of leaves and bark was taken to treat gonorrhoea and stomach aches.”

References:

- Mabberley, D. J. (1997). *The Plant-Book. A portable dictionary of the vascular plants.* (2nd Ed)
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
Williams, P. M. E. (1996) *Te Rongoa Maori.* Reed Publishing, Auckland

**Trip report: Peggy’s Hill Field Trip – Sunday July 16
By John Barkla**

A keen band of 20 including several children braved wet and misty conditions on the afternoon trip to Peggy’s Hill (Otago Peninsula). A 15 minute walk uphill through farmland led to the fenced perimeter of the 1.79 ha conservation covenant. The forest remnant is owned by Mr Jim Morris and has been fenced since about 1991. Fencing was carried out by the Highcliff Conservation Corps under the supervision of DOC and was funded in part by the conservation group Save the Otago Peninsula (STOP).

Armed with a species list prepared by Pat Enright of the Wellington Botanical Society, the party split into several small groups to explore the covenant. Some confined themselves to the margins while others headed for the higher interior.

The dense margins were dominated by *Pseudowintera colorata* and several species of *Coprosma*. Once through this the group found a low forest of Hall's totara, miro, fuchsia, broadleaf and three-finger. The abundance of ground ferns had many putting their 'Key to the Ferns of Dunedin' to good use. The seven filmy ferns (*Hymenophyllum* spp) on the list proved elusive though, with the paucity of large trunks no doubt restricting suitable habitat. Lichens were plentiful and over 30 species have subsequently been identified.

A special feature of the remnant is the presence of mountain holly (*Olearia ilicifolia*), *Raukaua simplex* and *Coprosma foetidissima*, all species that have disappeared from most other parts of the Peninsula.

Although once heavily browsed by goats the understorey is now in good condition with an abundance of palatable ferns and herbs. With the exception of Darwin's barberry there are few weeds of conservation concern. Darwin's barberry however is well established on the margins and numerous seedlings were noted within the forest. Control of this serious shrub weed is desirable while this is still a practical option.

The group reunited after a couple of hours botanising and slid back to the vehicles and hot drinks. Special thanks to Helen Clarke for leading the trip and to the landowner, Jim Morris, for granting access.

Vascular species list:

Original list compiled by Pat Enright. Exotics are marked with an (*).

Trees and shrubs:

Aristotelia serrata (makomako,
wineberry)

**Berberis darwinii* (Darwin's
barberry)

Carpodetus serratus

(putaputaweta, marbleleaf)

Coprosma aff *parviflora*

Coprosma crassifolia

Coprosma foetidissima
 (stinkwood)
Coprosma propinqua subsp.
 propinqua
Coprosma rigida
Coprosma rotundifolia
Dracophyllum longifolium agg.
Fuchsia excorticata (Fuchsia,
 kotukutuku)
Gaultheria antipoda (false beech)
Griselinia littoralis (broadleaf)
Hebe salicifolia (koromiko)
Melicope simplex
Melicytus ramiflorus (mahoe)
Myrsine australis (red matipo)
Myrsine divaricata (weeping
 matipo)
Neomyrtus pedunculatus
Olearia ilicifolia (mountain holly)
Pittosporum eugenioides (tarata,
 lemonwood)
Pittosporum tenuifolium (kohuhu)
Podocarpus hallii (Halls totara)
Prumnopitys ferruginea (miro)
Pseudopanax colensoi (mountain
 five finger)
Pseudopanax crassifolius
 (horoeaka, lancewood)
Pseudowintera colorata (horopito)
Raukaua simplex
Schefflera digitata (pate)
 **Ulex europaeus* (gorse)

Lianes, climbers, and parasites

Clematis paniculata
 (puawhananga)
Neostylus micranthus (mistletoe)
Metrosideros diffusa (akatea)
Muehlenbeckia australis
 (pohuehue)
Parsonsia heterophylla (akakiore)

Rubus cissoides (tataramoa, bush
 lawyer)

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum (manamana,
 hen and chicken fern)
Asplenium flaccidum (makawe,
 hanging spleenwort)
Asplenium gracillimum
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum discolor (piupiu, crown
 fern)
Blechnum fluviatile (kiwakiwa)
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
 (kiokio)
Blechnum penna-marina
Blechnum procerum
Ctenopteris heterophylla (comb
 fern)
Cyathea smithii (katote)
 **Dryopteris filix-mas* (male fern)
Grammitis billardierei
Histiopteris incisa (mata, water
 fern)
Hymenophyllum bivalve
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Hymenophyllum multifidum
Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum
Hymenophyllum rarum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
 agg.
Hypolepis ambigua
Hypolepis millefolium
Hypolepis rufobarbata
Microsorium pustulatus
 (kowaowao, hounds tongue
 fern)
Polystichum richardii (pikopiko)
Polystichum vestitum (puniu)
Pteridium esculentum (rauaruhe,
 bracken)
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia (ota,
 leather-leaf fern)

Rumohra adiantiformis
Tmesipteris tannensis
Trichomanes venosum

Monocotyledonous herbs

Astelia fragrans (karearea)
**Carex ovalis* (oval sedge)
Earina mucronata (peka-a-waka)
Juncus gregiflorus
Juncus novae-zelandiae.
Pterostylis banksii (tutukiwi,
greenhood orchid)
Pterostylis graminea
Uncinia rupestris
Uncinia uncinata (watu, hook
grass)

Dicotyledonous Herbs

Acaena anserinifolia (bidibidi)
Acaena juvenca
Anaphaloides bellidioides
Anaphaloides rupestris
Cardamine sp. (*C. debilis* agg.)
**Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove)
Epilobium atriplicifolium
Helichrysum filicaule
Hydrocotyle heteromeria
Nertera depressa
Nertera villosa
Ranunculus multiscarpus
Ranunculus reflexus (maruru, hairy
buttercup)
Schizeilema trifoliolatum
Senecio biserratus
Senecio minimus
Stellaria decipiens
**Stellaria graminea* (stitchwort)
Viola filicaulis

Lichen list from Botanical Society of Otago visit to Peggy's Hill DoC covenant, Otago Peninsula

By Allison Knight

In a brief 90 min visit on a cool damp winter afternoon two of us found over 30 lichens representing 26 different genera. Some, such as the pixie-cup *Cladonia*, the orange *Teloschistes*, beard-like *Usnea* and grey-green *Ramalina* are characteristic of high light habitats and were found on the margins of the forest remnant, or high in the canopy. Others, more characteristic of low light habitats, such as the nitrogen fixing *Collema*, *Psoroma* and *Parmeliella*, were found further in, under the low, dense and surprisingly dry canopy. In a depression by the spring near the centre of the covenant was a moister area, with a higher canopy shading fallen remains of the original mixed podocarp forest cover. Here, along with an increased density of filmy ferns,