

Wanganui Plant List No. 193

List of vascular plants of forest remnants and cliffs at 'Ben Moi', adjoining Kawhatau River

Colin Ogle and members of Wanganui Museum Botanical Group

29 Jan. 2005

Last revised 25 April 2005

Block centred on NZMS260/Sheet T22/554543; alt. 310-390 m

Landforms: (1) near-flat, elevated river terrace surface, from Toe Toe Road to rim of Kawhatau gorge;

(2) very steep to vertical sandstone cliffs from terrace (1) to river

(3) flat river terraces and low risers adjoining the Kawhatau River (true right bank)

Vegetation: Area (1) comprises sparse to locally dense patches of mostly divaricating shrubs with scattered titoki, totara, matai, maire, kowhai and other trees; in 2 paddocks, one more heavily grazed than the other. The small portion seen of the cliffs (2) comprised low stature forest of titoki, mahoe, akiraho with bamboo rice grass locally dominant; patches of scrub with mountain flax (wharariki), shining karamu, akiraho, bush iris (*Libertia grandiflora*); and vertical cliffs with *Hebe stenophylla*, *Scandia rosifolia*, *Anaphalioides subrigida*, wharariki, cliff kiokio and other low shrubs, ferns and herbaceous plants. Terraces (3) have a closed forest canopy, titoki-dominant in the small area seen, but probably some podocarp dominated (totara, kahikatea) beyond this; the river terraces have been grazed in the past but showed little evidence of this now. The list for (3) includes areas of gravel on the riverbed with some pasture grasses and areas of tree lupin and purple buddleia.

Notable plants: On the nationally threatened plant list (de Lange et al. 2004) are:

Teucrium parvifolium: status 'Chronically threatened – gradual decline'

Tupeia antarctica: status 'Chronically threatened – gradual decline'

Scandia rosifolia: status 'At risk - sparse'

Simplicia buchananii: status 'At risk - range restricted'

Among those which rank as regionally threatened or uncommon are: *Korthalsella lindsayi*, *Coprosma virescens*, *C. rubra*, *Hebe stenophylla* (extremely narrow-leaved form of Mangaweka-Ohingaiti area), *Fuchsia perscandens*, *Microlaena polynoda*, *Lastreopsis velutina*.

* denotes adventive species

Abundance ratings: because of the high ecological diversity of this area, few species occurs across all landforms and vegetation types. The abundance ratings "a, c, o" should generally be taken to read as "locally a, c, or o"; a = abundant, c = common, o = occasional, u = uncommon. The abundance of plants on cliffs and the riverbed terraces is based on a very small portion that was seen in a short inspection. More extensive survey might reveal quite different abundances and certainly more species.

CHR, AK, WELT = herbarium specimens to be lodged in Landcare Research, Auckland Museum and Te Papa, respectively.

		Upper terrace	Cliff	Lower terraces
Gymnosperms				
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	kahikatea	o		u?
* Pinus radiata		u	u	
Podocarpus totara	totara	o	o	o
Prumnopitys taxifolia	matai	o		u
Dicot trees and shrubs				
* Acacia dealbata	silver wattle		o	
* A. melanoxylon	Tasmanian blackwood	u	o	
Alectryon excelsus	titoki	c	o	c
Beilschmiedia tawa	tawa	u		
Brachyglottis repanda	rangiora		o	o
* Buddleja davidii	purple buddleia		u	c
Carmichaelia australis	native broom	u		
Coprosma crassifolia CHR		c	u	
Coprosma grandifolia			u	
Coprosma lucida	shining karamu			o
Coprosma rhamnoides				u
Coprosma rigida		u		
Coprosma robusta	karamu			u
Coprosma rotundifolia	round-leaved coprosma	u		
Coprosma rubra CHR		o		
Coprosma virescens CHR		o		
Coprosma propinqua x C. robusta		u?		
Elaeocarpus hookerianus ¹	pokaka	u		
Geniostoma rupestre	hangehange		c	
Hebe stricta var. stricta	koromiko		o	
Hebe stenophylla	fine-leaved hebe		o?	
Hoheria populnea var. [H. sexstylosa]	lacebark	u		
Kunzea ericoides s.l.	kanuka	u		
Leptospermum scoparium	manuka		u	
Leucopogon fasciculatus	mingimingi	u	u	
* Leycesteria formosa	Himalayan honeysuckle			u?
Lophomyrtus obcordata	rohutu	c		
* Lupinus arboreus	tree lupin			a
Melicope simplex	poataniwha	o		o?
Melicytus micranthus	small-leaved mahoe	u		

¹ A few adults but no juveniles seen

		Upper terrace	Cliff	Lower terraces
Melicytus ramiflorus	mahoe	u	o	o?
Myrsine australis	mapou	u		
Myrsine divaricata	weeping mapou	c		u?
Nestegis cunninghamii	black maire	o		
Nestegis lanceolata	white maire	u		
Olearia paniculata	akiraho			o?
Pennantia corymbosa ¹	kaikomako	u		
Pittosporum eugenioides	tarata, lemonwood	u		
P. tenuifolium var. tenuifolium	kohuhu	o	o?	
Plagianthus regius	manatu, ribbonwood	o		
* Prunus sp.	cherry plum	u	o	
Pseudopanax arboreus	fivefinger			o
P. crassifolius	lancewood	u		
* Sambucus nigra	elderberry	u		
Schefflera digitata	pate	u		
Sophora godleyi	kowhai	o	c?	
Sophora microphylla	kowhai	o?	o?	c
Streblus heterophyllus	small-leaved milk tree	o		o?
Teucrium parvifolium ²				u?
Tupeia antarctica	white mistletoe	u ³		
Urtica ferox	ongaonga, shrub nettle	u		
Monocot tree				
Cordyline australis	ti kouka, cabbage tree	u		
Dicot lianes				
Calystegia tuguriorum	native convolvulus		u	
Clematis foetida		o		
Clematis forsteri		u	o?	
* Clematis vitalba	old man's beard	o	o	
Fuchsia perscandens	climbing fuchsia	u		
Metrosideros colensoi	white rata vine	o	o	o?
Muehlenbeckia australis	pohuehue	o	u?	
Parsonsia capsularis	native jasmine	o		
Parsonsia heterophylla	native jasmine	o		
Passiflora tetrandra	NZ passionflower, kohia	u		
Rubus schmidelioides	bush lawyer	c		
Rubus schmidelioides x R. squarrosus		u		

² Recorded by Dr Bruce Clarkson in c. 2002, in forest on low terrace near the river (specimen seen by CCO)

³ One seen, on black maire

		Upper terrace	Cliff	Lower terraces
Monocot liane				
Ripogonum scandens	supplejack		u	
Dicot herbs				
Anaphalioides subrigida	everlasting daisy		o	
* Arctium minus	burdock	c	o	o?
Cardamine sp [unnamed; C. debilis agg.; C. "Narrow Petal" of Pritchard 1957]	native bittercress	o		
* Cirsium vulgare	Scotch thistle	o		
* Conyza albida	fleabane	o		
* Galium divaricata	bedstraw	u		
Euchiton collina (was E. gymnocephalus)	cudweed	u		
Hydrocotyle elongata	pennywort	a		o?
Hydrocotyle moschata	hairy pennywort	u		
Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae	swamp pennywort	u		
Korthalsella lindsayi ⁴ AK	dwarf mistletoe	lc		
* Mycelis muralis	wall lettuce	o		
* Myosotis arvensis	field forget-me-not	o		
Oxalis exilis	creeping oxalis	o		
* Parentucellia viscosa	tar-weed			o
Pseudognaphalium sp. [P. luteo-album agg.]	woolly cudweed		u	
* Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup	o		
Scandia rosifolia	native aniseed			u
* Senecio jacobaea	ragwort			u
* Sisymbrium officinale	hedge mustard	o		
* Solanum nigrum	black nightshade	o	o	
Stellaria parviflora	native chickweed	u		
* Torilis japonica	upright hedgehog-parsley	o		
Urtica incisa	NZ nettle	u	u	
Wahlenbergia rupestris	white harebell	u		
W. violacea	harebell	u		
Monocot herbs				
<u>Grasses</u>				
* Agrostis capillaris	browntop	c		
* Bromus hordeaceus	soft brome	o		

⁴] On *Melicope simplex*, *Coprosma crassifolia*

		Upper terrace	Cliff	Lower terraces
* Dactylis glomerata	cocksfoot	c		o
Dichelachne crinita	plume grass		u	
Echinopogon ovatus	hedgehog grass	o	o	
* Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	o		o
* Hordeum murinum	barley grass	o		
Microlaena polynoda	bamboo ricegrass	u	c	
Microlaena stipoides	meadow ricegrass			
Poa anceps ssp. anceps			c	
* Rytidosperma racemosum	danthonia	o	o	
Simplicia buchananii ⁵ CHR, AK		u		
<u>Sedges</u>				
Carex virgata	cutty grass	o		
Uncinia sp. (unidentified)	hook grass	u		u
<u>Monocot herbs other than grasses and sedges</u>				
Collosporum microspermum	perching lily, kahakaha	u		
Corybas sp. (C. rivularis agg.)	spider orchid		u	
Earina mucronata	a perching orchid	u		
* Juncus bufonius	toad rush	o		
Juncus edgariae (J. gregiflorus of NZ authors)	rush	o		
Libertia grandiflora	native iris		u	
Phormium cookianum	wharariki, mountain flax		c	
Ferns				
Adiantum cunninghamii	maidenhair fern		o	
Asplenium flaccidum	hanging spleenwort		u	
Asplenium gracillimum		o	o	c?
Asplenium oblongifolium	shining spleenwort		u	
Blechnum chambersii			o	
Blechnum triangularifolium	cliff kiokio		c	
Histiopteris incisa		u		u
Hypolepis ambigua		o		u?
Lastreopsis velutina	velvet fern			u
Microsorium pustulatum	hound's tongue fern	u	c	c?
Pellaea rotundifolia	button fern	o	o	o
Pneumatopteris pennigera				u

⁵ First North Island record; specimens lodged in CHR and AK (identified by R O Gardner at AK).

		Upper terrace	Cliff	Lower terraces
<i>Polystichum novaezelandiae</i> ssp. <i>zerophyllum</i> WELT	o	c	c	c
<i>Polystichum silvaticum</i> WELT		u		u
<i>Polystichum wawranum</i> WELT				u?
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken	u	u	
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	shaking brake		u	
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather leaf fern	o	o	o

Total indigenous species = 108
Total non-indigenous species = 28

-----Original Message-----

From: Colin and Robyn Ogle [mailto:robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz]

Sent: Tuesday, 26 April 2005 9:47 a.m.

Subject: 'Ben Moi'

Dear All

You might be interested in a revised version of the 'Ben Moi' (Kawhatau Valley) plant list that we (the Botanical Group) made on the trip there in February 2005. The revisions arose from :

1. the discovery of the identity of a small grass that I listed previously under grasses as 'unidentified'. This grass was growing under a small grove of titoki on the grazed, elevated river terrace, in semi-shade. Staff at Landcare in Lincoln were unable to identify the material I sent there and suggested I send some to Auckland Museum - where Dr Rhys Gardner came up with the name *Simplicia buchananii*. This is the first record of this species in the North Island. (Yet another disjunct species, like the 15 or so in the Waiouru army lands). In fact, it was previously known only from NW Nelson. This grass has a national status of 'Range Restricted'. (The only other species of *Simplicia* is *S. laxa*, which has one very old Wairarapa record and several very scattered S Is records - although in more sites, it's apparently much rarer than *S. buchananii*. Rhys Gardner thinks the differences between the two species are not great and they could be combined into one sp.)
2. My correspondence with Dr Bruce Clarkson in Hamilton, who visited Ben Moi in about 2002 and found *Teucrium parvifolium* there. He showed me a fresh piece on his way home via Wanganui. Bruce says it was on the low terrace in forest near the river.