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Orchids
on database
✓

Checklist of indigenous vascular plants seen at: Covenant above Ruakokoputuna River

Grid Ref: NZMS 260 S 27 153 §89

Altitude m.asl

Visited: 1/11/99, T. Silbery, A. Rebergen

Time on site: 4½ hours

LIST # 37

Site description:

The area covers both sides of the Ruakokoputuna River. Bends in the river give aspects facing all points of the compass. Mostly steep slopes, with some limestone bluffs and occasional river flats closer to the river. Soils are deep in most places and derived from limestone.

Toward the northern end is an apparent old boulder beach, now raised high above the river, which should be good reptile habitat. There are numerous shell fossils to be seen in the rocks and some exposed layers of shell deposits in one area.

Most of the vegetation in the southern part of the covenant is kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) dominant second growth, with totara (*Podocarpus totara*) in places. Former grazing has eliminated the understorey in parts, though there is a fence at the top. Most of the understorey here comprises *Coprosma rigida*, *Coprosma rhamnoides* and *Helichrysum aggregatum*. There are occasional small limestone rock outcrops. Canopy height is regular and about 8 - 10 metres. Occasional long steep grassy faces cut through the woody vegetation.

The small area of black beech was unusual, given that this species is far from a typical limestone plant.

There is a stand of larger totara and titoki (*Alectryon excelsus* var. *excelsus*) on a terrace near the river. Trees here reach over 10 metres.

A number of sedges showed signs of grazing.

There was no fence along the NE part of the covenant and other areas, though fenced, showed signs of recent access by stock.

Weed species of concern include Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) which at one point is competing with many of the cliff species, variegated thistle (*Silybum marianum*) and montbretia (*Crocsmia x crocosmifolia*). Gorse, broom, willow and alder are also present in varying degrees.

Significant or unusual plants include:

Korthalsella salicornioides, *Rubus squarrosus*, *Asplenium lyallii* and possibly *Rumex flexuosus*, though this latter will need to be confirmed by flowering material.

Search effort

Recce

Moderate

Thorough

Nomenclature generally follows Indigenous Higher Plants of New Zealand, 8th revision, 1992 by A.P. Druce

* indicates species listed on the Wellington Conservancy plant database

(unc) = uncommon, one or few plants seen.

† indicates species seen only on the sandy river bed

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Podocarpus totara *

Prumnopitys taxifolia

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis *

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Alectryon excelsus var. excelsus

Brachyglottis repanda

Carmichaelia australis

Carpodetus serratus

Coprosma crassifolia (unc)

Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua (unc)

Coprosma rhamnoides

Coprosma rigida *

Coprosma robusta

Fuchsia excorticata (unc) *

Hebe stricta var. atkinsonii

Helichrysum lanceolatum

Hoheria sixtylosa

Korthalsella salicornioides*
Kunzea ericoides
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Macropiper excelsum
Melicytus ramiflorus subsp. ramiflorus
Myoporum laetum
Myrsine australis
Neomyrtus pedunculata *(unc)
Nestegis cunninghamii *
Nothofagus solandri var. solandri
Ozmanthus leptophylla
Pittosporum eugenioides
Pittosporum tenuifolium *
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax crassifolius (unc)
Solanum laciniatum
Sophora microphylla *
Urtica ferox

Monocotyledonous lianes

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Calystegia tuguriorum
Clematis forsteri
Clematis paniculata
Metrosideros colensoi
Metrosideros diffusa
Muehlenbeckia australis *
Muehlenbeckia complexa
Parsonia capsularis
Parsonia heterophylla
Rubus cissoides
Rubus schmidelioides
Rubus squarrosus *

Psilopsids, Lycopods and Quillworts

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flabellifolium

Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium hookerianum
Asplenium lyallii *
Asplenium oblongifolium
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum fluviatile
Blechnum triangularifolium *
Cyathea dealbata (unc)
Cyathea medullaris (unc)
Hypolepis ambigua
Lastreopsis glabella
Pellaea rotundifolia
Phymatosorus pustulatus
Pneumatopteris pennigera
"Polystichum deep purple"
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris tremula
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia

Monocotyledonous herbs:

Orchids

Corybas macranthus ✓
Corybas trilobus ✓

Grasses

Cortaderia fulvida
Echinopogon ovatus
Microlaena polynoda *
Microlaena stipoides
Poa anceps
Poa imbecilla

Sedges

Carex forsteri (unc)
Cyperus ustulatus (unc)
Uncinia banksii

Rushes and allied plants

Juncus gregiflorus
Juncus pallidus (unc)
Juncus sarophorus
Luzula picta

Monocotyledonous herbs other than orchids, grasses, sedges, rushes and allied plants

Lemna sp. ("L. minor NZ" of Druce) (unc)
Phormium cookianum *

Dicotyledonous herbs - composites

Anaphalis keriensis
Anaphalis subrigida
Craspedia uniflora var. major
Gnaphalium audax
Gnaphalium gymnocephalum
Lagenifera pumila
Leptinella squalida *
Raoulia tenuicaulis†
Senecio quadridentatus

Dicotyledonous herbs other than composites

Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg.) ("Long style" of Pritchard 1957)
Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg.) ("Narrow petal" of Pritchard 1957)
Dichondra sp.
Epilobium insulare
Epilobium komarovianum†
Epilobium nerterioides
Epilobium nummularifolium
Haloragis erecta subsp. erecta
Hydrocotyle elongata
Hydrocotyle heteromeria
Hydrocotyle microphylla
Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae *
Linum monogynum
Nertera depressa
Oxalis exilis†
Parahebe diffusa subsp. diffusa
Parietaria debilis
Pratia angulata
Ranunculus reflexus

Rumex flexuosus *
Stellaria decipiens
Urtica incisa
Wahlenbergia violacea

Birds

Bellbird
Fantail
Grey warbler
Harrier
Kingfisher
Paradise duck
Pipit
Shining cuckoo
Silvereye
Spur winged plover
Tui
Welcome swallow

Fish

Upland bully
Dark bully