



Mauitaha Island and Guano Island - Bream Islands NR, Weeds - 2010 recce records



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Made on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website – www.nzpcn.org.nz

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Introduction

This book was compiled from information stored on the website of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (www.nzpcn.org.nz).

This website was established in 2003 as a repository for information about New Zealand's threatened vascular plants. Since then it has grown into a national database of information about all plants in the New Zealand botanic region including both native and naturalised vascular plants, threatened mosses, liverworts and fungi.

Funding to develop the website was provided by the New Zealand Government's Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System Programme (TFBIS).

The species information used on the website has come from a variety of sources. The indigenous vascular plant text was written largely by Dr Peter de Lange (former Network Vice President). Peter based the descriptions on a wide range of sources including the Flora of NZ Series (Allan 1961, Moore and Edgar 1970 and Webb et al 1987) as well as numerous other taxonomic treatments. For a full bibliography of information sources see the References at the end of this book.

Where no published treatment was available Peter used herbarium specimens and his own knowledge of the flora to prepare species pages. Various other contributors have provided text and additional information to many species pages including botanists such as Mike Thorsen, John Barkla, Cathy Jones, Simon Walls, Nick Singers and many others. The threatened fungi text was written by Eric Mackenzie and Peter Buchanan (Landcare Research).

More than 200 photographers have kindly provided images to illustrate the website and for use in this book especially John Smith-Dodsworth, Jeremy Rolfe, Peter de Lange, Wayne Bennett and Gillian Crowcroft.

The New Zealand Botanic Region

The information on the Network website, from which this book was compiled, is for species that are indigenous to or naturalised within the New Zealand Botanic Region as defined by Allan (1961). The New Zealand botanic region encompasses the Kermadec, Manawatawhi/Three Kings, North, South, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham, Antipodes, Bounties, Snares, Auckland Campbell island/Motu Ihupuku and Macquarie.

About the Network

The Network has more than 800 members worldwide and is New Zealand's largest non-governmental organisation solely devoted to the protection and restoration of New Zealand's indigenous plant life.

The vision of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is that '*no indigenous species of plant will become extinct nor be placed at risk of extinction as a result of human action or indifference, and that the rich, diverse and unique plant life of New Zealand will be recognised, cherished and restored*'.

Since it was founded in 2003 the Network has undertaken a range of conservation initiatives in order to achieve its vision.

That work has included:

- Training people in plant conservation
- Publishing plant books, reports and posters
- Raising money for the David Given Threatened Plant Research Trust to pay for plant conservation research scholarships
- Advocacy to raise awareness of the importance of plant life in general and especially New Zealand's status as a Global Centre of Plant Diversity
- Lobbying central and regional government and business to protect indigenous plant life
- Educating people about plant life through the Network website
- Connecting people through the monthly newsletter, the Network conference and the annual general meeting

What is a threatened plant?

The NZ Threatened Plant Committee was formed in 1991 and ever since then it has met at regular intervals to review the status of indigenous vascular plants. It is made up of a small group of botanists that between them have an extensive knowledge of the native plants of New Zealand. This group is chaired by Dr Peter de Lange of the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

This committee applies a set of criteria to each native plant to determine its conservation status. The resulting list of species classified as threatened is published in the NZ Journal of Botany (see for example de Lange et al. 2009). The main threat categories used are: Extinct, Critical, Endangered, Vulnerable, Declining. Other categories used are: Recovering, Relict, Naturally Uncommon, Coloniser, Vagrant and Data Deficient. For vascular plants the threat status used in this book is taken from the 2009 conservation assessment (see de Lange et al 2009).

More recently other committees have been established to review the status of non-vascular plants but their lists are yet to be published.

Asparagus asparagoides

Common Name(s):

smilax

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Thrives in impoverished soils, bare rock and volcanic soils. Likes good drainage. Coastal areas, open rocklands, shrubland, roadsides, hedges, wastelands, inshore and offshore islands. Plants are typically found under tree canopies which is largely due to bird movement but also reflects greater seedling establishment in leaf litter and better growth in shaded or part-shaded environments.

Features:

Scrambling or twining perennial. White, fleshy, tuberous roots in dense clusters. Stems to 3 m, green or slightly woody, twisted, thin and wiry, branched. Leaves are actually cladodes (flattened leaf-like stems), solitary at each node, 10-35 x 4- 15 mm, flat, ovalish, pointed, with approx. 7 veins. Flowers greenish-white, 5-6 mm, July-Aug. Round red berry, 6-10 mm, 2-8 tiny black seeds.

Flowering:

August, September, October

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3480



Caption: Smilax rust (*Puccinia mysiphylli*) on undersides of leaves. Wanganui.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Smilax rust (*Puccinia mysiphylli*) on undersides of leaves. Wanganui.

Photographer: Colin Ogle

Dactylis glomerata

Common Name(s):

Cocksfoot

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal, lowland, montane and subalpine habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Plant grows in scrub and forest margin, shrubland, tussockland, herbfields, fernland, sand dune hollows and riverbeds (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

Features:

Hairless, erect, greyish to bluish green, strongly tufted perennial grass to 1 m tall. Roots fibrous. Emerging leaf folded; ligule 2-12 mm long, membranous, often torn; sheath strongly flattened, sharply keeled. Leaves 100-450 x 2-14 mm, rough towards boat-shaped tip, harsh when old, dull beneath with prominent sharp keel. Seedhead a large panicle, with one-sided clusters of flattened spikelets. Seeds with bristly ends.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3809



Caption: Spikelets. Whanganui. nov 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Spikelets. Whanganui. nov 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle

Ehrharta erecta

Common Name(s):

veldt grass

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Plant grows in sites of low fertility (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of sand dunes, cliffs and bluff communities (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

Features:

Slender, tufted perennial grass to 60 cm tall. Leaves pale green, soft, broad, shortly hairy, often dying back in summer drought. Sheaths short. Seedhead an open, erect, 10-40 cm long, ragged panicle of narrow spikes.

Flowering:

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3855



Caption: *Ehrharta erecta*

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Young plant growing under roadside hedge.

Photographer: Peter de Lange, April 2006, St Lukes Rd, Mt Albert, Auckland

Lathyrus odoratus

Common Name(s):

sweet pea

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3360

Paspalum vaginatum

Common Name(s):

saltwater paspalum

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Aquatic: Emergent. Found in brackish water around the margins of river mouths and estuaries

Features:

Decumbent perennial grass with long creeping stolons. Leaf-blade up to 8 cm x 2 mm, rather stiff and much narrower than the sheath. Culm up to about 20 cm tall, panicle consisting of 2 spreading racemes.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3296



Caption: North Cape. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: North Cape. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Pennisetum clandestinum

Common Name(s):

kikuyu grass

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A coastal plant of high fertile sites (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant that prefers warm, moist and fertile soils, but is drought resistant (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant of sand dunes (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant that is a common dominant pasture grass (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that is invasive in coastal areas (Department of Conservation 1996).

Features:

Creeping, perennial, hairy, mat-forming grass. Stolons very long, climbing supported occ to 2+ m, rooting frequently. Rhizomes long. Leaves alternate, 5-40 x 3-9 cm, bright green to yellow-green, soft and drooping, sparsely hairy above and below, blades folded, ligule a fringe of hairs, auricle missing. Sheath pale green to white, with soft 2-4 mm hairs. Seedhead of 2-3 tiny spikelets in upper leaf sheaths, wispy anthers and stigmas

Flowering:

flowers are very small and reduced.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3023



Caption: *Pennisetum clandestinum*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Pennisetum clandestinum*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Phytolacca octandra

Common Name(s):

inkweed

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial.

Features:

Glabrous, spreading or mainly erect subshrub to approx. 2m tall, with numerous white raphides on stems and lower surface of leaves. Stems softly woody towards base, often reddish. Petioles to 2.5cm long, moderately thick, often reddish. Lamina 4~15 x 1.5~5cm, elliptic or elliptic-ovate; base cuneate to attenuate; apex acute or mucronate. Racemes erect to approx. 7cm at flowering, to 11cm at fruiting; peduncles and very short pedicels mostly granular, becoming crimson at fruiting. Hermaphrodite flowers dense. Bracts 3~4mm long, linear-lanceolate to subulate; bracteoles much smaller. Perianth 5~7mm diam.; tepals accrescent, 2~3mm long, broad-ovate, imbricate, whitish or pale greenish at first, becoming pink to crimson at fruiting. Stamens 8, slightly < perianth; anthers white. Ovary 8-carpellate, green with numerous white raphides. Fruit about 8mm diam. when fresh, depressed globose, with 8 very shining black, very succulent with dark red juice. Seed 2~2.5mm diam., subglobose, glossy black. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

Flowering:

November, December, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3062



Caption: *Phytolacca octandra*

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: *Phytolacca octandra*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Portulaca oleracea

Common Name(s):

purslane

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3084



Caption: *Portulaca oleracea*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Portulaca oleracea*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Senecio bipinnatisectus

Common Name(s):

Australian fireweed

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2680



Caption: Otaki Forks, Taraua Forest Park. 070423.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Senecio bipinnatisectus

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Sonchus asper

Common Name(s):

prickly sow thistle

Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2781



Caption: *Sonchus asper*

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: *Sonchus asper*

Photographer: John Sawyer