

## Checklist of indigenous vascular plants seen at: Brown's Flat and adjacent forest, Western Tararua Range

Grid Ref:

Altitude m.asl

Visited: 22 July 1999

Time on site: 6 hours

### LIST # 34

Site description:

Brown's flat itself is a poorly drained plateau below a series of rounded hills on the western side of the Tararua Range. The forest has been cleared and pasture sown, but the area was not grazed permanently, only in the summer. Its situation in the water supply catchment of Palmerston North City has seen the area retired from grazing and a revegetation project is now underway. Two areas rate special interest. These are the watercourses and streamsides of Brown's Flat itself, where the stream meanders across some very even terrain, leading to the formation of streamside bogs, along with some hummocks of *Sphagnum* moss, and the forest remnant to the north, where some idea of the original forest composition can be gained.

The extent of clearing makes it very difficult to assess the former vegetation of the wet areas of Brown's flat in detail, but broadly, it would have comprised swamp forest, probably dominated by kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), merging into shrublands where the tree daisy *Olearia virgata* var. *virgata*, manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and mingimingi (*Coprosma propinqua* subsp. *propinqua*) would have provided much of the dominant woody vegetation, along with flax, (*Phormium tenax*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and sedges, particularly *Carex secta* and *Carex virgata*.

Esler in botany of the Manawatu states that most of the timber taken from Brown's Flat was rimu

Any future plantings should feature these species in the wetter areas, along with plants from the adjacent forest remnant.

The forest remnant itself is in fair to good condition. Very little possum sign was seen, but there was sign of both pig and deer.

Of special interest in the forest was the presence of fern species characteristic of dark and high rainfall sites, usually at higher altitudes, *Leptopteris superba*, *L. hymenophylloides*, *Blechnum colensoi* and *Blechnum nigrum*.

The giant moss *Dawsonia superba* was also common in places.



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.

### **Gymnosperm trees and shrubs**

*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* \*

*Dacrydium cupressinum*

*Podocarpus totara* \*

*Prumnopitys ferruginea*

### **Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs**

#### **Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs**

*Alseuosmia pusilla*

*Aristolelia serrata*

*Beilschmiedia tawa*

*Brachyglottis repanda*

*Carmichaelia australis*

*Carpodetus serratus*

*Coprosma foetidissima*

*Coprosma grandifolia*

*Coprosma propinqua* subsp. *propinqua*

*Coprosma* sp. (unnamed; sp. "t" of Eagle 1982)

*Elaeocarpus dentatus*

*Fuchsia excorticata* \*

*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*

*Griselinia littoralis*

*Griselinia lucida*

*Hedycarya arborea*

*Knightia excelsa*

*Leptospermum scoparium*

*Lophomyrtus bullata*

*Melicytus ramiflorus* subsp. *ramiflorus*

*Myrsine salicina*

*Neomyrtus pedunculata* \*

*Olearia rani*

*Olearia virgata* \*

*Pseudopanax crassifolius*

*Pseudowintera axillaris*

*Pseudowintera colorata*

*Raukawa anomalus*

*Schefflera digitata*

*Weinmannia racemosa*

### **Monocotyledonous lianes**

Freycinetia banksii \*  
Ripogonum scandens

### **Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants**

Clematis paniculata  
Metrosideros diffusa  
Metrosideros fulgens  
Metrosideros perforata  
Muehlenbeckia complexa  
Rubus cissoides

### **Psilopsids, Lycopods and Quillworts**

Lycopodium varium  
Lycopodium volubile  
Tmesipteris elongata

### **Ferns**

Asplenium bulbiferum  
Asplenium polyodon  
Blechnum chambersii  
Blechnum colensoi  
Blechnum fluviatile  
Blechnum nigrum \*  
Blechnum novae-zelandiae  
Ctenopteris heterophylla  
Cyathea medullaris  
Cyathea smithii  
Dicksonia squarrosa  
Grammitis billardierii  
Histiopteris incisa  
Hymenophyllum demissum  
Hymenophyllum dilitatum  
Hymenophyllum rarum  
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum  
Lastreopsis hispida  
Leptopteris hymenophylloides  
Leptopteris superba  
Leptopteris superba x L. hymenophylloides  
Paesia scaberula  
Phymatosorus pustulatus  
Pneumatopteris pennigera  
Polystichum silvaticum  
Pteridium esculentum  
Rumohra adiantiformis  
Trichomanes reniforme  
Trichomanes venosum

## **Monocotyledonous herbs:**

### **Orchids**

*Earina autumnalis*

### **Grasses**

*Cortaderia toetoe*

*Microlaena avenacea*

### **Sedges**

*Carex geminata*

*Carex virgata* \*

*Eleocharis gracilis*

*Isolepis prolifer*

*Isolepis reticularis*

*Uncinia banksii*

*Uncinia uncinata*

*Uncinia zotovii*

### **Rushes and allied plants**

*Juncus gregiflorus*

*Juncus sarophorus*

*Luzula banksiana*

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

*Astelia fragrans*

*Astelia solandri*

*Collospermum microspermum*

### **Dicotyledonous herbs - composites**

*Gnaphalium gymnocephalum*

*Helichrysum filicaule*

*Senecio minimus*

### **Dicotyledonous herbs other than composites**

*Acaena anserinifolia*

*Centella uniflora*

*Hydrocotyle elongata*

*Nertera depressa*

*Nertera setulosa*

*Oreomyrrhis* sp.

*Ranunculus reflexus*

*Stellaria decipiens*