

Orchids
on disease

Checklist of indigenous vascular plants seen at: Gorge forest, Karakanui Station

Grid Ref.: NZMS 260 T25 571 475

Altitude 300m.asl

Visited: 14 May 2001, T. Silbery, J. Kirby

Time on site: 1 hour

LIST # 58

Revised

Site description:

The stream and main valley run NW to SE, with the forested slope facing more or less south. The slope is cut by two gullies running N - S. On the eastern margin there is regenerating manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) shrubland and a deep narrow gorge cuts through soft sandstone.

The forest is dominated by a dense growth of rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) with tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) co-dominant in part. Hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*) is common throughout.

The canopy is up to 15 - 20 metres and very dense, allowing little light to penetrate to the floor. The soils are thin and skeletal, with many exposed rocks, though there is a deep leaf litter and where topsoil accumulates it is deep and friable. There is little vegetation on the forest floor.

On the top of the ridge the forest gives way to a manuka shrubland to 2 metres tall growing on a weathered clay soil. There are some open spaces between the manuka bushes, a good spot for orchids at the right time, and the soil is a very thin layer over the sandstone.

Some deer sign was seen.

The whole site covers some 30ha., so this visit merely scratched the surface

Significant or unusual plants/associations:

Search effort Recce Moderate Thorough

Nomenclature generally follows A. P. Druce's "A Checklist of Indigenous Vascular Plants of New Zealand", 10th revision, 1999 by Shannel Courtney

* 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
Prumnopitys taxifolia

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline banksii

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosma grandifolia
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma robusta
Coriaria arborea
Elaeocarpus dentatus
“Gaultheria novae-zelandiae”
Geniostoma rupestre var. rupestre
Hebe stricta var. atkinsonii
Hoheria sexstylosa
Knightia excelsa
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus var.
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros robusta (unc)
Nestegis cunninghamii *
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia rani var. colorata
Ozothamnus leptophyllus ssp. leptophyllus
Pomaderris phyllicifolia var. ericifolia *
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Schefflera digitata
Weinmannia racemosa var. racemosa

Monocotyledonous lianes

Ripogonum scandens

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Metrosideros diffusa
Parsonsia capsularis
Passiflora tetrandra (unc)
Rubus schmidelioides var.

Psilopsids, Lycopods and Quillworts

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium gracillimum
Asplenium hookerianum
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum fluviatile agg.
Blechnum novae-zelandiae var. novae-zelandiae
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Cyathea smithii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Grammitis billardierei
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum multifidum
Hymenophyllum rarum
Lastreopsis glabella
Microsorium pustulatum
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia

Monocotyledonous herbs:

Orchids

Earina mucronata

Grasses

Poa anceps ssp. *anceps*

Sedges

Carex solandri

Gahnia setifolia

Uncinia ferruginea

Uncinia uncinata

Rushes and allied plants

Juncus sarophorus

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

Collospermum microspermum

Dianella nigra

Dicotyledonous herbs - composites

Anaphalioides trinervis (inc *Anaphalis keriensis*)

Helichrysum filicaule

Lagenifera pumila

Dicotyledonous herbs other than composites

Cardamine debilis var. *macrostylis* ("Long style" of Pritchard 1957)

Epilobium insulare

Galium propinquum

Geranium potentilloides var. *potentilloides*

Hydrocotyle elongata

Nertera depressa

Ranunculus reflexus

Birds

Bellbird

Fantail

Grey warbler

Kereru
Tui

