

**SOME INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANTS OF MT CAMERON BUSH, SITE 6,  
CENTRED ON NZMS 260 R27 MAP WELLINGTON, G.R. 664833; LIST COMPILED  
ON 23-6-97 BY B. J. MITCALFE AND J.C. HORNE.**

<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>MAAORI NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<b>GYMNOSPERM TREES</b>		
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea	kahikatea
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro	miro
<b>MONOCOT TREES</b>		
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	tii koouka	cabbage tree
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	niikau	nikau
<b>DICOT TREES AND SHRUBS</b>		
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako	wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	rangiora
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweetaa	marble leaf
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>		
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kaanono	kanono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	mingimingi	
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>		
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka	karaka
<i>Cyathodes juniperina</i>	mingimingi	mingimingi
<i>Dracophyllum longifolium</i>	inaka	inaka
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hiinau	hinau
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i>		
var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange	hangehange
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka	broadleaf
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri	pigeonwood
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kaanuka	kanuka
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	maanuka	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi	mingimingi
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama	ramarama
<i>Lophomyrtus obcordata</i>	roohutu	rohutu
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	maahoe	whiteywood
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	maapou	mapou
<i>Nestegis cunninghamii</i>	maire	black maire
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	"	white "
<i>Nothofagus solandri</i>	tawhai rauriki	black beech
var. <i>solandri</i>		
<i>Olearia paniculata</i>	akiraho	akiraho
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara	heketara
<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>	tauhinu	tauhinu

Pennantia corymbosa  
Pseudopanax arborea  
Pseudopanax crassifolius  
Weinmannia racemosa

kaikoomako  
whauwhaupaku  
horoeka  
kaamahi

kaikomako  
five finger  
lancewood  
kamahi

### MONOCOT LIANES

Freycinetia baueriana  
    ssp. banksii  
Ripogonum scandens

kiekie  
kareao

kiekie  
supplejack

### DICOT LIANES

Clematis foetida  
Clematis paniculata  
Metrosideros diffusa  
Metrosideros fulgens  
Metrosideros perforata  
Muehlenbeckia australis  
Parsonsia heterophylla

puawanaanga  
aka  
aka kura  
aka tea  
pohuehue  
kaiwhiria

white climbing rata  
scarlet rata  
clinging rata  
pohuehue  
parsonsia

### FERN ALLIES

Tmesipteris elongata

fork fern

### FERNS

Asplenium bulbiferum  
Asplenium flaccidum  
Asplenium hookerianum  
Asplenium polyodon  
Blechnum chambersii  
Blechnum filiforme  
Blechnum fluviatile  
Blechnum minus  
Blechnum procerum  
Cyathea dealbata  
Cyathea medullaris  
Hymenophyllum demissum  
Hymenophyllum revolutum  
Hypolepis ambigua  
Hypolepis rufobarbata  
Lastreopsis glabella  
Lastreopsis hispida  
Leptopteris hymenophylloides  
Phymatosorus pustulatus  
Phymatosorus scandens  
Pneumatopteris pennigera  
Polystichum richardii  
Pteris macilenta  
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia  
Rumohra adiantiformis  
Trichomanes venosum

manamana  
makawe o Raukatauri  
  
petako  
nini  
paanako  
kiwakiwa  
  
ponga  
mamaku  
mauku  
"  
  
heruheru  
koowaowao  
mokimoki  
paakau  
pikopiko  
titipo  
ota  
karawhiu

hen and chickens  
hanging spleenwort  
  
sickle fern  
  
thread fern  
  
ponga  
mamaku  
filmy fern  
"  
  
single crepe fern  
hound's tongue  
fragrant fern  
gully fern  
shield fern  
sweet brake  
leather-leaf fern  
  
veined bristle fern

**ORCHIDS**

Pterostylis alobula  
Thelymitra longifolia

tutukiwi  
maaikuku

greenhood  
sun orchid

**GRASSES**

Cortaderia toetoe  
Microlaena avenacea  
Microlaena polynodis

toetoe  
paatiitii

toetoe  
bush rice grass

**SEDGES**

Carex flagellifera  
Carex geminata  
Carex secta  
Carex virgata  
Cyperus ustulatus  
Gahnia setifolia  
Uncinia uncinata  
Uncinia banksii

rautahi  
puurei  
upoko tangata  
maapere  
mataua a Maui

Glen Murray tussock  
giant umbrella sedge  
hook grass

**RUSHES**

Juncus sarophorus  
Juncus sp. "

wii

**MONOCOT HERBS**

Astelia fragrans  
Collospermum hastatum  
Dianella nigra  
Phormium tenax

kakaha  
kahakaha  
tuurutu  
harakeke

blueberry  
swamp flax

**DICOT HERBS**

Hydrocotyle elongata  
Hydrocotyle sp.  
Nertera depressa  
Ranunculus reflexus  
Senecio minimus  
Stellaria decipiens

maaruuruu  
kohukohu

buttercup  
fireweed  
chickweed

**INDIGENOUS BIRDS**

korimako  
piwaiwaka  
riroriro  
kakariki  
tauhou

bellbird  
fantail  
greywarbler  
NZ parakeet  
waxeye

**ADVENTIVE BIRDS**

greenfinch  
hedge sparrow

magpie  
red poll  
song thrush

## **NOTES ON S.N.A. SITE 6, MT CAMERON BUSH.**

(Site 28e in Biological Resources Survey, 1984).

**FOR REASONS OUTLINED BELOW, SITE 6 IS CONSIDERED ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991.**

### **BOUNDARY**

*The existing boundary should be revised to exclude substantial areas of pasture, gorse and tauhinu. (See map).*

### **HISTORY**

Mt Cameron was named after John Cameron, the first settler in Gollans Valley.

### **FLORA AND FAUNA**

The significant vegetation is concentrated in the head of the valley, where second-growth black beech, probably the westernmost stand of beech in the Wellington region, covers some spur crests. Occasional "original" trees are present and beech regeneration in the wake of the Wahine storm of 1968, is dense.

Pukatea to 12 metres, miro with estimated d.b.h. of 30 cms, and a pre-European kahikatea with estimated d.b.h. of 1.2 metres and estimated height of 25 metres, are notable components of the valley floor semi-swamp forest vegetation. Pukatea and both podocarp species are regenerating well. In the gullies, abundant nikau, mamaku, supplejack and kiekie are regenerating along with a range of broadleaved trees and shrubs, and there is a well-developed understorey.

Towards the south of Site 6, gorse covers most spurs on the east side, though there are remnants of native forest, probably beech, in some gullyheads. Tauhinu is overtaking pasture on the west side.

Five species of native birds were seen. The presence of kakariki, (native parakeet), and korimako, (bellbird) indicates that Mt Cameron Bush is significant habitat for these uncommon species. Two of their priority food sources are present in good quantity in Site 6 and the adjacent Site 28. Tawa seedlings were noted, a likely indicator that kereru (native pigeon) visit the site.

### **REPRESENTATIVENESS**

With some exceptions such as rata and other palatable species, and mature rimu and totara which were probably logged, the vegetation in Site 6 is representative of the original, altitudinal, ecological gradation from sedgeland to semi-swamp forest, rising to beech forest. Because of land-use practices such as logging, burning, clearing and grazing, this sequence of vegetation has largely been lost from Wellington ecosystems.

### **DIVERSITY/RARITY**

Together with its associated wetland (part S.N.A. Site 28), Cameron Creek Bush has a moderate-to-high SSWI (Site of Special Wildlife Interest) rating on the DoC database. In the

Biological Resources Survey of 1984, it was recommended as a priority site

for inclusion in a Scientific Reserve.

Cameron Creek flows into Kohangapiripiri, one of Wellington's two freshwater lakes, each a regionally significant feature with undisputed rarity value. Immediately downstream of the Bush, the Kohangapiripiri raupo-toetoe wetland contains 16 plant species which are regionally endangered or uncommon, and 6 species of native fish. Site 6's indigenous vegetation has a significant water-and soil-protection function in relation to these biota.

Over 100 indigenous vascular plant species represent moderate diversity and would no doubt be added to, following a more intensive survey. Heritage kahikatea, mentioned above, has rarity value in Wellington Conservancy. Of intrinsic value, it is also a significant seed source for the future and a priority food source for tui and kereru.

Both species of parakeet are of medium-high priority in the Wellington Conservancy and are described as "likely to be vulnerable or endangered". Bellbird is a medium priority species in the Conservancy.

#### **CONTINUITY/LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY**

The surrounding landscape is almost exclusively rural. Site 6 stands out in isolation, possessing intrinsic value as well as significant scenic and landscape values.

The continuity from indigenous wetland to indigenous forest at the head of this valley, commented on earlier, is an uncommon sight in the Wellington region because so many former wetlands are now drained or planted with exotic species such as willows.

The indigenous forest is cradled in the head of the catchment, and together with its wetland, forms an uninterrupted ecological sequence from Mt Cameron in the north, to the coastal bar in the south. On a slightly smaller scale, it is, to the Cameron Creek catchment, what Mt Hawtrey is to Gollans Valley. (See photograph).

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Isolated by the topography, if given time, protection from fire and incursions of stock and pest animals such as deer and pig, Mt Cameron Bush should recover its former diversity, following natural successional patterns.

#### **THREATS**

Fire, roading, stock, drainage, pest animals.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

*That a means be negotiated to protect the beech forest remnant marked 3 on the map, which was not included in the survey. It lies on a steep slope outside the boundary of Site 28, on the east side of the ridge between the Cameron Creek catchment and Gollans Valley and is ecologically continuous with Cameron Creek beech forest. It is the only area of forest on this western side of Gollans Valley for approximately 3 kms (going south to north), and there is no forest at all on the western side further south.*

