

Wanganui Plant List No. 163

Higher plants of Puketi Creek at confluence with Hautapu River, downriver from Mataroa and Paengaroa Scenic Reserve, NNW of Taihape

500 m (Grid ref. NZMS260, T21/ 455712)

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* = adventive species

unc = uncommon (only one or a few individuals seen, or a very localised colony)

Gymnosperm Trees

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	kahikatea
Podocarpus totara s.s.	totara
Prumnopitys taxifolia	matai

Dicot Trees and Shrubs

Aristotelia fruticosa X A. serrata (1 seen)	hybrid wineberry
Coprosma crassifolia	
Coprosma linariifolia (unc - 6)	
Coprosma obconica (at least 22 seen)	
Coprosma propinqua ssp. propinqua	
Coprosma rigida	
Coprosma robusta (unc)	karamu
Coprosma rotundifolia	round-leaved coprosma
Coprosma rubra	
Coprosma virescens (unc - 9)	
Coprosma wallii (unc - 2)	
Corokia cotoneaster var. cotoneaster (unc)	korokio
Griselinia littoralis (unc)	broadleaf, puka
Hebe stricta var. stricta (unc)	koromiko
Hoheria populnea var. lanceolata	lacebark
Korthalsella lindsayi s.s. ¹ (unc)	dwarf mistletoe
Leptospermum scoparium var.	manuka
Lophomyrtus obcordata (unc)	rohutu
Melicope simplex	poataniwha
Melicytus flexuosus (unc - 2)	leafless mahoe
Melicytus micranthus	small-leaved mahoe
Myrsine divaricata s.s.	weeping mapou
Nestegis cunninghamii (unc)	black maire
Olearia gardneri (unc - 3)	a tree daisy

¹ On *Melicope simplex*.

<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> ssp. <i>tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax</i> (<i>Raukaua</i>) <i>anomalus</i> (unc)	
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i> var. <i>arboreus</i> (unc)	five finger
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood, horoeka
<i>Sophora godleyi</i> ²	kowhai
<i>Sophora microphylla</i> ²	kowhai
<i>Sophora godleyi</i> X <i>S. tetraptera</i> (unc - 1) ³ [1]	large-leaved kowhai hybrid
<i>Tupeia antarctica</i> (unc - 1) ⁴	white mistletoe

Dicot Lianes

<i>Clematis foetida</i> (unc)	scented clematis
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	NZ jasmine
<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i> var. <i>schmidelioides</i>	lawyer

Ferns

<i>Asplenium hookerianum</i>	
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i> (unc)	kiokio
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	button fern
<i>Polystichum</i> sp. [unidentified]	hard shield fern
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i> (unc)	bracken

Monocot herbs

<i>Carex virgata</i> (unc)	
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i> (unc)	toetoe
* <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i> (unc)	hedgehog grass
<i>Juncus edgariae</i>	
<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	mountain flax, wharariki

Dicot Herbs

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i> (unc)	bidibidi (piripiri)
<i>Acaena juvenca</i>	bidibidi (piripiri)
* <i>Arctium minus</i>	burdock
<i>Cardamine</i> sp. (i)(<i>C. debilis</i> agg.)	
* <i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock
<i>Epilobium nummulariifolium</i> (unc)	willow herb
<i>Hydrocotyle elongata</i>	pennywort

² FROM Heenan and de Lange (2001) in a taxonomic revision of *Sophora*, we listed two species of kowhai and a hybrid. *S. microphylla* has divaricating juveniles, trees not markedly weeping and leaflets with almost hairless upper surfaces. *S. godleyi* has non-divaricating juveniles, a markedly weeping adult form and upper leaflet surfaces with dense cover of fine, sometimes erect, hairs. The latter is far more abundant in this forest than the former.

⁴ On *Myrsine divaricata*

Threatened Species: 5 species in the Puketi Creek forest remnant are rated as nationally threatened species (de Lange et al. 2004).

Acutely threatened - Nationally critical: *Olearia gardneri*

Chronically threatened – Gradual decline: *Coprosma obconica*, *Coprosma wallii*, *Melicytus flexuosus*,
Tupeia antarctica

Vegetation and Topography:

This site was one of several visited during a survey in the area for *Olearia gardneri*. We were searching bush fragments in the vicinity of known plants, and which had indicator species that are associated with the vegetation type as found in Paengaroa Scenic Reserve, such as corokia and divaricating coprosmas.

This remnant hugs a south facing slope of the Puketi Creek as it joins the Hautapu River. There are plantations of pines and Tasmanian blackwoods on nearby slopes, and poplars on the flats by the stream. Remnant shrubby vegetation hugs the edges of the stream where it has cut into the bank, creating a steep drop. This vegetation had indicator species for the plant associations we were looking for eg corokia, *Coprosma obconica*.

The patch of forest is dominated by podocarp (matai, totara and kahikatea) and kowhai, with smaller trees (such as lacebark, *Coprosma* species and kohuhu) interspersed. It has a fairly open understorey with little forest floor cover or regeneration as it is currently grazed. There were very few exotic plants (weeds) present in the remnant, but they did occur in the vicinity (elderberry, Himalayan honeysuckle).

What initially looks like scrubby vegetation is actually an association of divaricating plants that resembles the vegetation of Paengaroa Scenic Reserve. Amongst them we found a number of rare species that also occur in Paengaroa, including mistletoe (*Tupeia antarctica*) and the subject of our search, *Olearia gardneri*. This site is a stepping stone between Paengaroa and the other known, more northerly, population near SH 1. As this type of vegetation is likely to have extended throughout the valley it is possible that other plants are still in existence.