ADDITIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS TO THE FLORA OF GREAT BARRIER

P.J. de Lange

Based on a week long visit in mid November. Vouchers of most records will be lodged in AK with duplicates in WAIK and CHR where appropriate. In addition the Great Barrier collections of Bowen (WAIK) not noted by Bartlett and Gardner have been examined and annotated where necessary. No additional records were found in this collection.

Elaeocarpus hookerianus (juvenile specimen only) T08 325530

One c. 4 m tall specimen in small kahikatea (Dacrycarpus dacrydioides) dominated swamp forest on the edge of the Kaitoke-Awana Road. This species was not confirmed from the island by Bartlett and Gardner (1983). Voucher in AK.

Ranunculus urvilleanus T09 380398

Several large patches on the old track to Rosalie Bay. Growing amongst kanuka (Kunzea ericoides var. ericoides) on rather open, wet turf. Some specimens up to 1.3 m tall. This species is considered vulnerable by Wilson and Given (1989). Voucher in AK.

Rorippa divaricata T09 345461

Small plants on recent slip face, Sugarloaf, Medlands Beach. Not vouchered.

Senecio "Cuvier Island" (see under S. lautus s.l. Webb et al., 1988) T09 388394

A distinctive entity, with lanate, pinnatifid leaves (often with purple undersides) not unlike Senecio scaberulus. Capitula small, ray florets yellow at least half the length of normal S. lautus in the area. Local, a small patch confined to a steep cliff on the northern end of Rosalie Bay. Plants were noted growing amongst Phormium cookianum in dry sites. Normal S. lautus subsp. lautus was present in the area usually in more exposed sites or on wet ground. Voucher in AK.

Amphibromus fluitans T09 329471

Scattered plants with immature seed heads were discovered amongst Paspalum distichum and Potamogeton cheesemanii within a series of small roadside ponds on the Tryphena-Claris Road. The plant was flowering much earlier than is considered usual (see Ogle 1987). Voucher in AK.

Thelymitra formosa T09 364405

Scattered specimens growing amongst Lindsaea linearis on a moist clay bank. Old track to Rosalie Bay. Vouchers not collected.

REFERENCES

Bartlett, J.K. and Gardner, R.O. 1983 Flora of Great Barrier Island. Auckland Botanical Society Bulletin 14.

Ogle, C.C. 1987 A rarely seen native grass, Amphibromus fluitans.

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DONALD MCLEAN TRACK - NOTES 30 JUNE 1989

Sandra Jones

The upgrading of the track, carried out over the last few years by Justice Department periodic detainees, appears to be finished at last. The half-dozen metal mounds which one came upon at regular intervals on high points of the track,where small circular clearings had been made to allow dumping of the metal from the sky, have been dispersed. A quite elaborate system of drains has been dug and the legendary quagmires are no more.

One of the two terrestrial Pittosporum kirkii that I know of on this track is dead, or very nearly so - lots of bare branches pointing skywards with only two miserable whorls of leaves still clinging on. The plant doesn't appear to have been disturbed by track maintenance activity nor has it been affected by drainage work so its sad demise can't be blamed on that. The other plant, quite a distance away, still looks healthy.

Harry Beacham gave me directions to a group of horopito (Pseudowintera axillaris) a few yards off the track. He had found one adult and four juveniles. I could only locate the adult (in bud at 30 June 1989) and one juvenile, though I probably didn't look hard enough. [Alan Esler also records horopito in the species list for a tea tree sampling site at Karamatura Forks, on a broad level ridge top.[1]]

Nearby is a tall silver pine, Lagarostrobos (Dacrydium) colensoi, a mate to the one most of us know on the Bob Gordon Track (often misrecorded as Lepidothamnus (Dacrydium) intermedius, but I'm assured by the experts that it is Lagarostrobos colensoi).

I've had less luck with the Pseudopanax edgerleyi that somebody told me about and which, according to her, has hooks and spines on its leaves. This phenomenon has been reported from the Hunuas[2] but not from the Waitakeres as far as I'm aware. Of the three plants I've found in the vicinity so far, two were well out of reach and there was no sign of hooks or spines on the one (trifoliate) leaf that I could reach on the the third specimen.

1 "Tea Tree (Leptospermum) Communities of the Waitakere Range, Auckland, New Zealand" N.Z. Jnl. Bot. 12: 485-501, 1974.

2 ABS Newsletter July 1972.