Vascular Plants on Land of the Miranda Naturalists' Trust, Miranda

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During the wildlife habitat survey of South Auckland by the Wildlife Service's Fauna Survey Unit in the summer of 1981-82, botanical notes and a plant list were made at Miranda, on land leased by the Miranda Naturalists' Trust. Some specimens were collected for the herbarium of Botany Division, DSIR.

The shell-banks and tidal mudflats bordering this land are well-known to ornithologists, since these are some of the most accessible areas in New Zealand for observing a high diversity of shore-birds, especially migratory wading birds. The Miranda Naturalists' Trust was set up primarily by ornithologists, but the Trust is keen to promote all sciences. The following notes were made for the Trust's use, but to promote a wider interest in the biology of the Miranda area, the Trust was glad to allow their publication.

PLANT LIST

A list of all species seen between road and high tide mark (see area defined in the map) on 5.12.81. List amended 30.06.82, 15.2.83.

*denotes exotic species, and NZ species not natural to this region.

DICOTYLEDON TREES AND SHRUBS

Avicennia resinifera	:	mangrove
* Casuarina sp.	:	she-oak (recently planted shrubs)
* Erybotrya japonica	:	loquat (1 mature tree)
* Ficus carica	:	fig (1 mature tree)
* Myoporum insulare	:	Tasmanian ngaio (recently planted)
* Olearia lineata (=O.virgata var. lineata)	:	shrub daisy (recently planted shrubs)
* O. traversii	:	Chatham Is shrub daisy (recently planted shrubs)
Plagianthus divaricatus	:	saltmarsh ribbonwood
* Tamarix sp.	:	tamarix (planted shrubs)
* Ulex europaeus	:	gorse

DICOTYLEDON HERBS

* Anagallis arvensis	:	scarlet pimpernel
* Apium nodiflorum	:	water celery
* Arenaria serpyllifolia	:	sandwort
* Aster subulatus	:	sea aster
Atriplex sp.	:	orache
Calystegia soldanella	:	sand convolvulus
* Capsella bursa-pastoris	:	shepherd's purse

* Carduus tenuiflorus	:	wing thistle
* Centaurium erythraea	:	centaury
* Cerastium glomeratum	:	mouse-eared chickweed
* Cirsium vulgare	:	Scotch thistle
* Conyza floribunda	:	fleabane
* Coronopus didymus	:	twin cress
* Cotula coronopifolia	:	batchelor's button
* Crepis capillaris	:	hawkbeard
* Daucus carota	:	wild carrot
* Echium plantagineum	:	Paterson's curse
* Erodium sp	:	crane's bill
* Galium aparine	:	cleavers
* G. divaricatum (=G. parisiense)	:	slender bedstraw
* Geranium molle	:	dove's foot
* G. purpureum	:	lesser herb Robert
Haloragis erecta		
* Leontodon taraxacoides	:	hawkbit
* Lotus peduncularis	:	lotus major
* L. subbiflorus	:	hairy lotus
* Lythrum hyssopifolia	:	purple loosestrife
* Malva neglecta	:	mallow
* Medicago arabica	:	spotted bur medick
* M. lupulina	:	black medick
* M. polymorpha	:	bur medick
* Melilotus indica	:	King Island melilot
* Modiola caroliniana	:	creeping mallow
* Parentucellia viscosa	:	tarweed
* Phytolacca octandra	:	inkweed
* Picris echioides	:	ox-tongue
* Plantago coronopus	:	buck's horn plantain
* P. lanceolata	:	narrow-leaves plantain
* P. major	:	broad-leaved plantain
* Polygonum aviculare	:	wire-weed
* Portulaca oleracea	:	pig-weed
* Rhaphanus rhaphanistrum	:	wild radish
* Rumex crispus	:	curled dock
* R. pulcher	:	fiddle dock
Salicornia australis	:	glasswort
Samolus repens		
Selliera radicans	:	half-star
Senecio glomeratus		
* S. jacobea		
* Sisymbrium officinale	:	hedge mustard
* Sonchus asper	:	prickly sowthistle
* S. oleraceus	:	puwha, sowthistle
Spergularia media		
Suaeda novae-zelandiae		
* Taraxacum officinale	:	dandelion
* Torilis arvensis	:	spreading hedgehog parsley
* Trifolium dubium	:	suckling clover
* T. glomeratum	:	clustered clover
* T. repens	:	white clover
* T. resupinatum	:	reversed clover
* T. scabrum	:	rough clover
* Verbascum virgatum	:	moth mullein
* Veronica arvensis	:	speedwell

GRASSES

* Agrostis stolonifera	:	creeping bent
* Avena fatua	:	wild oat
* Briza minor	:	shivery grass
* Bromus mollis	:	soft brome
* B. unioloides	:	prairie grass
* B. sterilis		
* Cynodon dactylon	:	Indian doab
* Dactylis glomeratus	:	Cock's foot
* Festuca arundinacea	:	tall fescue
* Holcus lanatus	:	Yorkshire frog
* Hordeum murinum	:	barley grass
* Lagurus ovatus	:	hare's tail
* Lolium perenne	:	perennial ryegrass
* Parapholis incurva		
* Poa annua	:	annual poa
* Polypogon monspeliensis	:	beard grass
Puccinellia stricta		
* Scleropoa rigida		
* Sporobolus africanus	:	rat's tail
Stipa stipoides		
* Vulpia bromoides	:	vulpia hair grass

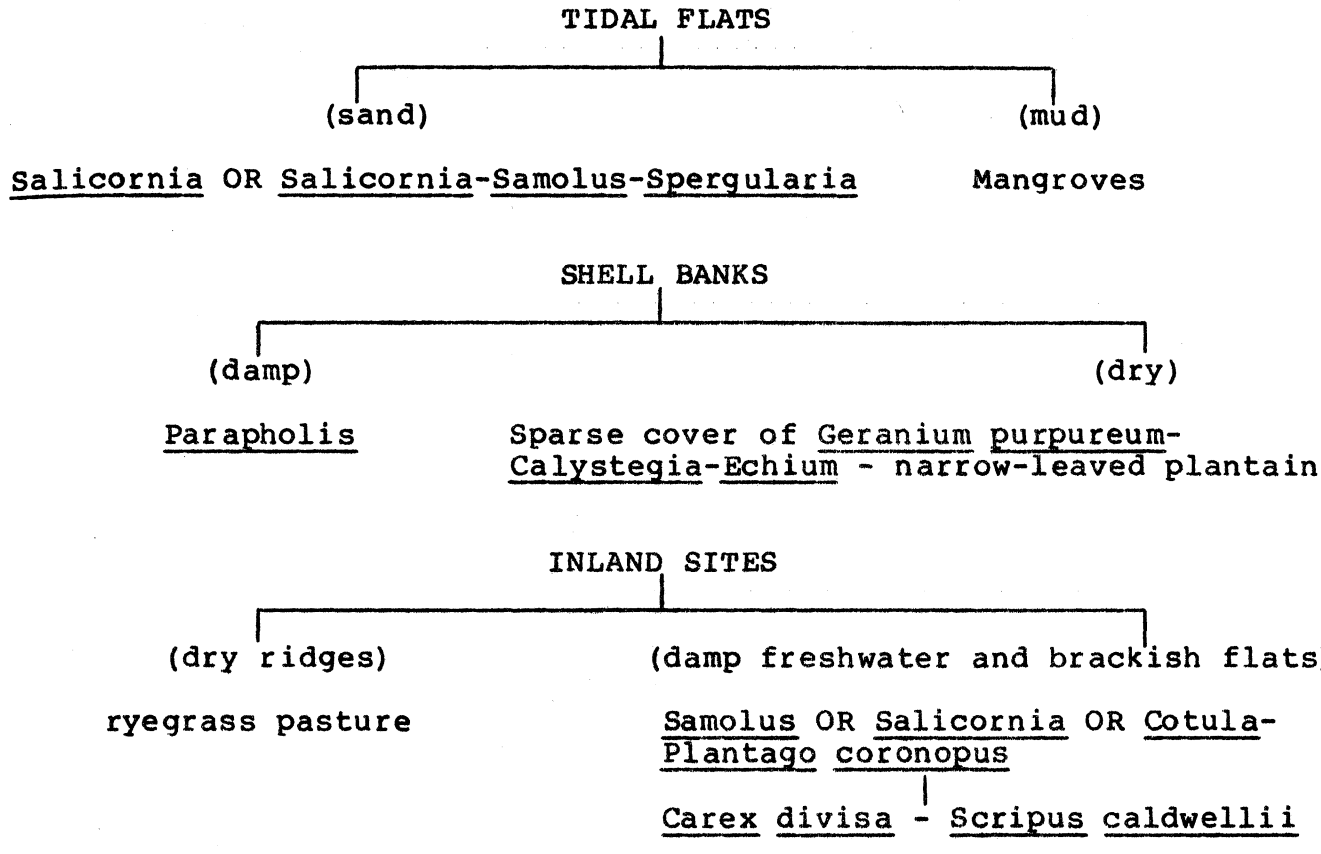
SEDGES

* Carex divisa		
* Cyperus eragrostis		
C. ustulatus		
Scirpus caldwellii	:	Purua 'grass'
S. cernuus		
S. nodosus		

OTHER MONOCOTYLEDONS (i.e. other than grasses and sedges)

* Allium vineale		
var. compactum	:	wild onion
* Juncus bufonius	:	toad rush
J. maritimus		
var. australiensis	:	sea rush
Phormium tenax	:	NZ flax (planted specimens only)
Triglochin striatum		

VEGETATION PATTERN



BOTANICAL NOTES

1. High proportion of exotic species, especially in better-drained sites. Total 'natural' (non-planted) flora = 97 species (78 exotic - 80%).

2. A relatively high number of exotic legumes, especially herbaceous species (5 of Trifolium, 3 of Medicago, 1 of Melilotus) and gorse. No doubt the shell content of the soils produces a high pH which favours legumes.

3. No rare or endangered indigenous plants were found.

4. Several exotic species of the Trust's area are of very restricted occurrence in New Zealand. These include:

   (a) Trifolium scabrum "A single collection from Miranda, Firth of Thames, in 1958 appears to be the only definite occurrence" (Healy 1976, p.41).
   "Firth of Thames, Napier, Wellington City. Rare and local." (Webb 1980). *

   (b) Allium vineale "Auckland-Auckland City, Miranda, Thames, near Hamilton; Wanganui, Dunedin." (Healy and Edgar 1980, p. 50).

* R.O. Gardner reports that there are two recent (post 1980) collections of Trifolium scabrum in AK (Mt Wellington, Waiheke I.).

(c) Carex divisa "North Auckland - Kerikeri Inlet, near Warkworth; Auckland - Auckland City, Miranda, Kaiaua, Tauranga. Marlborough - Havelock; Otago - Maniototo Plain" (Healy and Edgar 1980, p. 157).

REFERENCES

Healy A.J. 1976. Identification of Weeds and clovers. 2nd ed. Editorial Services Ltd, Wellington.

Healy A.J. and E. Edgar 1980. Flora of New Zealand, III. Government Printer, Wellington.

Webb C.J. 1980. Checklist of dicotyledons naturalised in New Zealand 5. Leguminosae. NZ J. Bot. 18: 463-72.

FIG: THE LOCATION OF LANDS SURVEYED BOTANICALLY FOR THE MIRANDA NATURALISTS' TRUST.

