

Vascular Plants and Mosses on the properties at 226 and 234 Te Hapua Road

Map ref. S25 850411 5km Nth of Waikanae

Pat Enright, Olaf John 2/6/01 (2hrs) Area in and around the pond at 226 Te Hapua Rd

The properties of Anne Stark and Bevan Burgess at 226 and Jill Abigail and Joy Anderton at 234 Te Hapua Road Peka Peka were surveyed on 1st April 2000 by the landowners and a group of Wellington Botsoc members (Peter Beveridge, Pat Enright, Chris Horne, Olaf John, Barbara Mitcalfe, Wendy Nelson and Darea Sherratt). The area is part of a large swamp complex with a series of parabolic sand dunes and ridges damming a sand plain to produce a series of swamps much of which has now been drained and converted to farmland.

Most of the swampy land on these properties has been modified with a number of artificial ponds and drainage ditches. The land has a history of grazing and aerial photographs from thirty years ago show quite a bit of scrub clearance. Rank exotic grasses such as tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) along with the rush *Juncus effusus* have invaded the area and the pampas grass in particular needs to be eradicated. The other exotic notable at the time because it was in flower was marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*).

In spite of the modification the native vegetation contains a number of notable species, most for their rarity within the Wellington Conservancy although there are one or two species that are "local" on a national basis.

The species of note are as follows:

1. *Banonea articulata* is very close to its southern limit here although it is reportedly found at the Waikanae estuary as well (Ian Cooksley pers. comm.). There is an old herbarium record at Te Papa for a collection by B C Aston at Fields Swamp Waikanae. A small area of this sedge was growing on the bank above the artificial pond on the property at 224 Te Hapua Rd.
2. *Carex dipsacea* is a sedge that is now uncommon due to loss of habitat. It was locally common in several parts of the properties.
3. *Carex maorica* is another sedge that is not commonly seen in the conservancy due to loss of suitable habitat.
4. *Gratiola sexdentata* was growing in a shortly turfed area. This area would probably be inundated periodically.
5. *Potentilla anserinioides* (silverweed) is common throughout most of the area at 234 and to a much lesser extent at 226 if fact it lives up to its common name. Nevertheless this species is uncommon in the Wellington conservancy probably because of a lack of suitable habitat.
6. *Ranunculus macropus*. This species is now uncommon around Wellington with the only recent recording being by Colin Ogle on a cutoff part of the Taupo swamp ("Vegetation of Swamp pockets near Plimmerton" Botsoc bulletin No. 40 1978)
6. *Viola byallii* is another plant that is not often seen in the Wellington area because of habitat loss.

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua
Coprosma tenuicaulis (unc)
Ozothamnus leptophylla

mingimingi
swamp coprosma
tauhinu

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis (unc)
tree

ti kouka, cabbage

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Muehlenbeckia complexa

pohuehue

Ferns

Azolla filiculoides
Blechnum minus (of NZ authors)

swamp kiokio

Pteridium esculentum

rauaruhe, bracken

Orchids

Microtis sp.

onion leaved orchid

Grasses

Cortaderia toetoe

toetoe

Sedges

Baumea articulata
Baumea rubiginosa
Carex dipsacea
Carex lessoniana
Carex maorica
Carex secta

purei

Carex virgata
Cyperus ustulatus
Eleocharis acuta
Eleocharis gracilis
Isolepis inundata
Isolepis nodosa
Isolepis prolifer
Isolepis subtilissima
Schoenus maschalinus

slender spike sedge

Rushes and allied plants

Juncus antarcticus
Juncus edgariae
Juncus planifolius
Juncus sarophorus

Remaining Monocotyledonous plants

Phormium tenax
Potamogeton cheesemanii
pondweed
Triglochin striata
Typha orientalis

harakeke, flax
manihi, red

arrow grass

raupo

Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Centipeda cunninghamii
Euchiton delicatum
Euchiton involucratum
Euchiton limosus
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum agg.

sneezeweed

cudweed

cudweed

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

Centella uniflora

Epilobium pallidiflorum
Galium propinquum
Glossostigma elatinoides
Gonocarpus micranthus
Gratiola sexdentata
Hydrocotyle hydrophila
Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae
Hydrocotyle pterocarpa
Hypericum japonicum
Lobelia anceps
Myriophyllum propinquum
Potentilla anserinoides
Ranunculus amphitrichus
Ranunculus glabrifolius
Ranunculus macropus
Viola lyallii

mawe

water milfoil
silver weed

Mosses:

Drepanocladus aduncus