

PRELIMINARY SPECIES LIST

**For coastline from Wainuiomata River mouth to
Pencarrow Head, including habitat notes and some
points of interest.**

Compiled by L Clark and J C Horne on 15/11/93.

INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANTS --- ORDER OF LISTING AFTER A.P.DRUCE

	COMMENTS
MONOCOT TREES	
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	In flower, scattered distribution on farmland and cliffs.
DICOT TREES, SHRUBS and TRAILING PLANTS	
<i>Cassinia leptophylla</i>	Shrubs common on farmland, cliffs and on stabilised older sand dunes
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	Abundant, divaricating shrub, occurring on scree and shingle slopes down to stabilised dunes. Also in rock crevices.
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Baring Head, growing in crevices in rock outcrops on beach.
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	Single trees and small groups in gullies.
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>macroura</i>	On cliffs east of Baring Head.
<i>Melicytus crassifolius</i>	Flattened shrubs near Wainuiomata River mouth, growing on stabilised dunes, with <u><i>Coprosma propinqua</i></u> . Windsheared, divaricating shrubs on scree and shingle fans, rock outcrops on beach, shrubs in hollows behind foredunes in Fitzroy Bay underneath <u><i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i></u> and <u><i>Coprosma propinqua</i></u> .
<i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i>	Two plants known from this area, on a shingle slide. We could not locate them.
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Shrubs growing in hollow behind foredune at Fitzroy Bay with <u><i>Coprosma propinqua</i></u> .
<i>Pimelea prostrata</i>	On dune terrace, L. Kohangapiripiri, and in rock crevices, Baring Head. Whipcord form with flower buds.
<i>Pimelea</i> sp.	On dune terrace, L. Kohangapiripiri. Small white flowers, leaves larger and less closely arranged than above.
<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	Introduced to the area, shrubs growing on cliff face east of Baring Head.
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	Saltmarsh Ribbonwood. Dominant shrub growing in hollow behind foredunes, Fitzroy Bay with <u><i>Coprosma propinqua</i></u> and <u><i>Melicytus crassifolius</i></u> .
<i>Scandia geniculata</i>	100m north of large rock outcrops at Baring Head. Scrambling through <u><i>Coprosma propinqua</i></u> shrubs. Small white 5-petalled flowers.
<i>Urtica ferox</i>	Occasional small plants along roadside.

DICOT LIANES	
<i>Calystegia tuguriorum</i>	Very common on dunes and raised beaches, pink flowers.
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	Vine entangled in <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> , <i>Melicytus crassifolia</i> and boxthorn shrubs. In vegetation behind dunes and on shingle fans.
<i>Muehlenbeckia ephedroides</i>	Sprawling vine on stabilised dunes south of L. Kohangapiripiri.
<i>Rubus squarrosus</i>	Leafless bush lawyer. Amongst <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> shrubs and low bushes on a coarse overgrown scree slope, Fitzroy Bay, south of Okakaho Stream.
<i>Tetragonia trigyna</i>	Abundant, scrambling through bushes of <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> , <i>Melicytus crassifolius</i> and boxthorn. Has yellow 4-petalled flowers.
FERNS	
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	On coarse scree slope, Fitzroy Bay.
<i>A. oblongifolium</i>	On cliff face east of Baring Head.
<i>A. terrestre</i> var. <i>maritima</i>	As above, also in rock crevices on rock outcrops.
<i>Hypolepis</i> sp.	
<i>Polystichum richardii</i>	Growing on cliffs east of Baring Head.
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Young plants amongst shrubs in hollow behind foredunes, Fitzroy Bay.
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	On cliffs east of Baring Head.
GRASSES	
<i>Austrofestuca littoralis</i>	In seed and very common on foredunes, associated with <i>Spinifex hirsutus</i> .
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	Common in gullies and in hollow between foredunes and 1460AD beach terrace (road).
<i>Poa cita</i>	On stabilised dunes.
<i>Spinifex hirsutus</i>	Abundant on foredunes from Wainuiomata River mouth to Fitzroy Bay but replaced by marram grass from about Okakaho Stream northwards. Many seedheads.
SEDGES	
<i>Carex</i> sp. (<i>flagellifera</i> ?)	Common on stabilised areas of dunes amongst other sedges.
<i>Carex pumila</i>	
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	In hollow behind foredunes, occasionally amongst marram and spinifex on beach dunes.

Desmoschoenus spiralis. Pingao	Flowering and setting seed, with many seedheads in the larger clumps. Growing amongst marram and spinifex on dunes and shingle fans at base of cliffs. See map for distribution.
Luzula sp.	Growing in rock crevices in outcrops, Baring Head.
RUSHES	
Isolepis sp.	
Leptocarpus similis	
MONOCOT HERBS	
Aciphylla squarrosa	
Phormium cookianum	Very common high on cliffs.
COMPOSITE HERBS	
Craspedia uniflora	Grey leaves with white margins. Growing in crevices between rock outcrops and beach.
Leptinella coronopifolia	
Pseudognaphalium sp.	
Ranunculus acaulis	Small plants with a flattened growth habit in sand, Baring Head. Also in Raoulia mats on beach just north of Baring Head rock outcrops. Small, single yellow flowers.
Raoulia hectori	Mats on dune terrace, L. Kohangapiripiri.
Raoulia sp	Extensive on beach above high tide, some with yellow flowers. Forming mats up to a half metre square in area, 7-spotted ladybird beetles were found on some mats.
Senecio lautus	Occasional small plants.
DICOT HERBS	
Acaena sp.	In rank grass by roadside.
Apium australe	In rock crevices Baring Head.
Disphyma australe	On rocks at Baring Head, forming mats on flat areas of sand near rock outcrops, flowering heavily.
Einadia sp. (triandra?)	Greyish foliage, prostrate shrub growing through windhorn low shrubs of <u>Melicytus crassifolius</u> and <u>Coprosma propinqua</u> .
Oxalis exilis	Growing in beach shingle above high tide. Yellow flower.
Parietaria debilis	Growing amongst dense windsheared shrubs of <u>Coprosma propinqua</u> in hollow behind foredune near fenceline on beach, Fitzroy Bay 1km north of Baring Head.

PINGAO - *Desmoschoenus spiralis*

In this section of my survey, I found Pingao in six distinct sites - please refer to the accompanying map.

1 Wainuiomata River mouth

Approximately 200 m north of the rivermouth is a lone pingao plant, in seed, growing in upper beach sand dunes. Surrounding vegetation is spinifex and carex. There were no more sightings for three kilometres.

2 Paiaka Stream to Lake Kohangatera

The most extensive areas of pingao were found in this area.

Isolated small plants began to appear north of Paiaka Strm; six individuals were counted on beach dunes amongst marram and spinifex, there were no seedheads.

About halfway between Paiaka Strm and L. Kohangatera is a "borrow pit" associated with gravel extraction. It is 20 m long and lies at the cliff base. The cliff side has undisturbed shingle/talus slopes. At the south end of these 17 individual pingao were counted. Toward the other end was a colony, about 4 m x 3 m forming solid ground cover and with numerous seedheads. On the seaward side is a sand and shingle pile running the length of the pit, made with earthmoving machinery. It has a disturbed vegetation of marram. Two dying pingao plants were also noted.

North of the pit is the wreck of the Paiaka, a metal hulk lying between the road and cliff base. On the shingle slope opposite it was a second large pingao colony also forming solid ground cover, and with many seedheads. This colony was surrounded by many scattered individual pingao plants dominated by marram. Approx. 100 m north of the Paiaka was a third large colony on the cliff-base shingle slope. This colony was interspersed with Aciphylla squarrosa plants in flower and was also surrounded by scattered individual pingao plants and marram.

3,4 Lake Kohangatera, north to fenceline and gate.

About 100 m south of the gate, amongst marram and spinifex, was a small patch of pingao consisting of several clumps. These may be individual plants but it was difficult to tell. They were growing on dunes near the road, with one isolated small clump on the most seaward dune .

Just south of the gate along a fence parallel to the road, close to a section of cliff with distinct folded rock strata was a forth large colony of pingao on undulating sandy soil either side of the fence. It was very roughly 5 m x 5 m in area, with many seedheads, and forming solid ground cover.

5 Lake Kohangapiripiri dunes.

Extensive pingao cover on seaward dune face. We did not attempt a count, as the plants formed a continuous cover. There were some seedheads.

6 Days Bay.

Amenity planting, at the gate to Wellesley College in sandy soil. Numerous seedheads.

INTRODUCED PLANTS	
Alyssum	Garden escape by the fenceline at Fitzroy Bay, in flower
Boxthorn	Very common between the 1460AD beach and the cliffs. Largest bushes are found east of Baring Head, but it disappears north of Pencarrow Head
Bunnytail Grass	Fairly common amongst marram and spinifex, more common towards Eastbourne
Cleavers	Growing through vegetation by the fence at Fitzroy Bay
Dandelion	Occasional plants in dune vegetation and on roadside to Eastbourne.
Goosefoot Geranium	Small plants occurring locally only.
Gorse	Common on farmland.
Horehound	Garden escape found locally in vegetation by the roadside and lower shingle fans.
Horned Poppy	Common on beaches from Wainuiomata River mouth to Fitzroy Bay, less common towards Eastbourne. In flower.
Lupin	Patchy distribution on dunes, locally very common. In flower.
Marram Grass	Abundant in Fitzroy Bay where it dominates beach vegetation in the vicinity of the quarry at L. Kohangapiripiri. Could be competing with pingao.
Ragwort	A common weed toward Eastbourne.
Scented Pelargonium	A garden escape which has spread over one side of a small ridge south of Camp Bay.
<u>Senecio elegans</u>	Has flowers with purple rays. Is scattered widely in dunes amongst spinifex and marram.
Sheep Sorrel	Small plants on dune terrace in front of L. Kohangapiripiri and in quarry area.
Thistle sp.	Common on scree and shingle slopes, and farmland. In flower.

NATIVE BIRDS	
Banded dotterel	Several pairs were seen, from the beach at Wainuiomata River mouth to L. Kohangatera.
Harrier	Seen flying above the cliffs.
Little shag	Unconfirmed sighting of a small black shag.
New Zealand Pipit	Seen at Baring Head and Fitzroy Bay in pairs.
Paradise shelduck	One pair seen at Wainuiomata River mouth.
Southern Black-backed gull	
Spur-winged Plover	Four birds seen at Fitzroy Bay.
Variable Oystercatcher	Three pairs seen on the beach.

INTRODUCED BIRDS

Black swan
Blackbird
Chaffinch
Dunnock
House sparrow
Skylark
Yellowhammer

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

300 m north of Baring Head are several low outcrops of greywacke fault breccia, with unusual form and texture, fragments of greywacke in a quartz matrix, altered by temperature and pressure.

Two recent whale burial sites in Fitzroy Bay just south of Okakaho Stream.

Trail bike tyre marks on the dune terrace at L. Kohangapiripiri where there are fragile communities of Muehlenbeckia ephedroides, Raoulia hectori and Pimelea sp.

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Lyn Clark, 10 April 1994.