

WANGANUI PLANT LIST NO 164**Vascular plants of bush remnants (Donalds' farm) in upper Turakina Valley, north of Rangiwaea and just east of Turakina Valley Road, west of Waiouru**

Lists compiled by C Ogle & V Nicholls (McGlynn), with assistance of
T Gilbertson & D Hurley, 8 June 2004;
and C Ogle, V. McGlynn, G La Cock, Kate Seffens & Alison Dorrian 23.6.05

Key to column headings**Hills:**

1. Southern edge of Raketapauma Conservation Area (Main Gorge Stream) and down Turakina R. to Waiaruhe Stream confluence; from approximately NZMS 260/T21/338816 to 329812 (23.6.05);
2. Between Turakina R and Turakina Valley Road – several ha of fragmented forest centered approximately NZMS 260/T21/323812, on slopes from Turakina Valley Road into Turakina River and about 500m of river downstream from this (survey 8.6.04).

Flat: Kahikatea-dominant forest on valley flat below Turakina Valley and just north of Rangiwaea; centred NZMS 260/T21/317809 (survey 8.6.04).

* denotes adventive species (mostly no records made on this survey); (u) = uncommon, and indicates species that occurred as very few individuals, or in only one place.

		Hills		Flat
		1. Main Gorge Stream etc.	2. Turakina 'road to river'	
GYMNOSPERMS				
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	kahikatea	x	x	x
Dacrydium cupressinum	rimu	x	x	
Podocarpus totara	totara	x	x	x
Prumnopitys ferruginea	miro	x		x
Prumnopitys taxifolia	matai	x	x	x
DICOT TREES AND SHRUBS				
Alseuosmia pusilla		u		
Aristotelia serrata	wineberry	x	x	x
Brachyglottis repanda	rangiora	x	x	
Carmichaelia australis	NZ broom	u		
Carpodetus serratus	putaputaweta	x	x	x
Coprosma grandifolia	raurekau, kanono	x	x	
Coprosma linariifolia		x		
Coprosma lucida	shining karamu	u		
Coprosma propinqua		x	x	x
Coprosma rhamnoides		x	x	x
Coprosma rigida		x	x	x
Coprosma robusta	karamu	x	x	
Coprosma rotundifolia	round-leaved coprosma	x	x	x
Coprosma rugosa			u	
Coprosma tenuifolia		x	x	x
Coprosma sp. (unnamed: C. "taylorae" of A P Druce)		u	x	x

Wanganui Plant List No 164; north of Rangiwaea, private forests

		Hills		Flat
		1. Main Gorge Stream etc.	2. Turakina 'road to river'	
Coprosma propinqua X C. robusta			x	x
Coriaria arborea	tutu		u	
Elaeocarpus hookerianus	pokaka	x	x	x
Fuchsia excorticata	kotukutuku	x	x	
Griselinia littoralis	broadleaf	x	u	
Hebe stricta var. stricta	koromiko	x	u	
Helichrysum aggregatum	a shrub daisy	x		
Hoheria populnea var. (= H sexstylosa)	houhere, lacebark		x	x
Korthalsella lindsayi	dwarf mistletoe		u ¹	u ²
Leptospermum scoparium	manuka	x	x	x
Leucopogon fasciculatus	mingimingi	x	x	
Lophomyrtus obcordata	rohutu	x		x
Melicope simplex	poataniwha	x	x	x
Melicytus lanceolatus	narrow-leaved mahoe	x		u
Melicytus micranthus				u
Melicytus ramiflorus	mahoe	x	x	x
Myrsine australis	mapou	x	x	
Myrsine divaricata	weeping mapou	u	x	x
Myrsine salicina	toro	x		
Neomyrtus pedunculata		x	x	x
Nestegis cunninghamii	black maire	x	x	x
Nestegis lanceolata	white maire	x	x	u
Pennantia corymbosa	kaikomako	x	u	x
Pittosporum eugenioides	tarata, lemonwood	x	u	
Pittosporum tenuifolium var. tenuifolium	kohuhu	x	x	x
Pseudopanax arboreus	five finger	x	x	x
Pseudopanax crassifolius	lancewood	x	x	x
Pseudowintera colorata	horopito	x	x	
* Sambucus nigra	elderberry		x (1 juv)	
Schefflera digitata	pate	x		u
Sophora godleyi	kowhai	x		
Sophora microphylla s.s.	kowhai	x	x	
Streblus heterophyllus	turepo, small-lvd milktree	x	x	x
Tupeia antarctica	white mistletoe	u ³	u ⁴	
Weinmannia racemosa ssp. racemosa	kamahi	u	x	
DICOT LIANES				

¹ On *Myrsine divaricata* and *Melicope simplex*

² On *Coprosma rigida*

³ One on black maire

⁴ 5 plants on one black maire, 1 on adjoining black maire and one on *Myrsine divaricata*

Wanganui Plant List No 164; north of Rangiwaea, private forests

		Hills		Flat
		1. Main Gorge Stream etc.	2. Turakina 'road to river'	
Clematis foetida		x	x	
Clematis forsteri		x		
Clematis paniculata	puawhanganga	u		
Metrosideros colensoi	aka, white rata vine	u		
Metrosideros diffusa	aka, white rata vine	x	x	
Muehlenbeckia australis	pohuehue	x	x	x
Parsonsia capsularis	N Z jasmine	x	x	x
Parsonsia heterophylla	N Z jasmine	x	x	x
Rubus cissoides var. (narrow-leaved form of Volcanic Plateau)	bush lawyer	x	x	x
Rubus schmidelioides	bush lawyer	x	x	x
Rubus squarrosus (or hybrid with R. schmidelioides?)	'leafless' lawyer	u		
MONOCOT TREES & SHRUBS				
Cordyline australis	ti kouka, cabbage tree	x	x	x
Cordyline banksii	Banks' cabbage tree	u		
MONOCOT HERBS				
Grasses				
Cortaderia fulvida	toetoe	x	x	
Dichelachne crinita	plume grass	u		
Echinopogon ovatus	hedgehog grass	u		
Microlaena avenacea	bush ricegrass	x		
Poa anceps ssp. anceps		x		
Trisetum sp. (T. lasiorhachis?)		u		
Sedges				
Carex flagellifera			x	
Carex geminata s.s.				x
Carex lessoniana		x		
Carex maorica				u
Carex secta s.s.				x
Carex solandri		x		
Carex virgata			x	x
Eleocharis acuta	sharp spike-sedge			x
Uncinia uncinata	hooked sedge	x		x?
Rushes				
* Juncus articulatus	jointed-leaved rush			x

Wanganui Plant List No 164; north of Rangiwaea, private forests

		Hills		Flat
		1. Main Gorge Stream etc.	2. Turakina 'road to river'	
Juncus edgariae			x	x
Juncus sarophorus		x		
MONOCOT HERBS, OTHER THAN GRASSES, SEDGES, RUSHES				
Astelia fragrans		x	u	
Astelia solandri		u		
Collospermum microspermum	perching lily	x		
Earina mucronata		x	x	
Lemna minor (of NZ authors)	duckweed			x
Phormium cookianum	wharariki, mountain flax	x	u	
DICOT HERBS				
Acaena anserinifolia	piripiri, bidibidi	u	x	x
Australina pusilla		u		
Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg.)	bittercress	x		x
Epilobium nummulariifolium	willow-herb	x	x	
Epilobium pedunculare	willow-herb		u	x
Epilobium rotundifolium	willow-herb	x		
Euchiton audax	cudweed	x		
Galium propinquum	NZ bedstraw		x	
Hydrocotyle elongata		x		x
Hydrocotyle microphylla		x		?x (u)
Oxalis exilis	creeping oxalis			x
Plantago raoulii				x
Ranunculus reflexus	bush buttercup	x		
Senecio minimus	NZ fireweed	x		x
FERN ALLIES				
Huperzia varia (Lycopodium varium)	hanging clubmoss	x(u)		
FERNS				
Adiantum cunninghamii	maidenhair fern	x		
Asplenium bulbiferum s.s.	hen & chickens fern	x		
Asplenium colensoi			x (u)	
Asplenium flaccidum	hanging spleenwort	x	x	
Asplenium gracillimum		x	x	
Asplenium hookerianum			x (u)	
Asplenium polyodon	sickle spleenwort	x		
Blechnum chambersii			x (u)	

		Hills		Flat
		1. Main Gorge Stream etc.	2. Turakina 'road to river'	
Blechnum colensoi		x		
Blechnum fluviatile		x	x	x
Blechnum minus (of NZ authors)	swamp kiokio			x
Blechnum novaezelandiae	kiokio	x	x	x
Blechnum penna-marina				x
Cyathea dealbata	ponga, silver fern	u		
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku	u		
Cyathea smithii	katote, soft tree fern	x	u	
Dicksonia fibrosa	wheki ponga	x	x	u
Dicksonia squarrosa	wheki	u		
Histiopteris incisa		x		u
Hypolepis ambigua		x		u
Leptopteris hymenophylloides	heruheru	x	x	
Microsorium pustulatum	hound's tongue	x	x	x
Paesia scaberula	ring fern	x	x	
Pellaea rotundifolia	button fern	x		
Pneumatopteris pennigera		x	x	
Polystichum vestitum		x		
Polystichum wawranum		x	x	x
Pteridium esculentum	bracken	x		u
Pteris tremula	Shaking brake		u	
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia	leather-leaf fern	x	x	

NOTABLE PLANTS

Tupeia antarctica: national status = Chronically Threatened – Gradual Decline

Korthalsella lindsayi – regionally sparse, most often on *Melicope simplex* but on this farm occurs on two other host species as well (see footnotes above).

Coprosma rugosa – in the North Island, mostly a species of montane river banks, so unusual to find it here. Possibly arrived here via birds, after forest clearing.

Habitat notes

The 'Hills' areas are made up of gully systems comprising some headwater streams of Turakina River. The slopes are bush covered or grazed pasture with various stages of regeneration (manuka, putaputaweta, mahoe and other shrubs and small trees). Main Gorge Stream, and its major tributary immediately south of the named stream, are cut into mudstone, but higher up the valley sides are outcrops of sandstone and limestone. Some limestone blocks have tumbled into the valley floor and toe-slopes. The cliffs have a distinctive flora that was not surveyed comprehensively, but which included mountain flax, koromiko, a white rata (*Metrosideros colensoi*) and several native grasses (*Poa anceps*, *Trisetum* sp.). Forest clothed the cliff areas above the confluence of Waiaruhe Stream and Turakina River, and just above and below these cliffs, on the sunny aspect, were warmer climate species including wheki, ponga, mapou, mingimingi. Further exploration of such warm aspects well above the valley floors should result in more finds of 'mild climate' species and cliff

specialists. Toe-slopes in Main Gorge Stream and its southern tributary appeared relatively fertile, with thickets of shrubs that included *Coprosma rotundifolia*, matai, *Rubus schmidelioides*, *Hydrocotyle elongata*. This habitat seemed the most suitable for finding *Olearia gardneri*, but none were found.

An area of approximately 7 ha, dissected by a small tributary of the Turakina River, was explored in 2004, earlier than Gorge Stream area. This bush was predominantly remnant emergent podocarp over a mixture of small broadleaved trees and shrubs eg putaputaweta, kamahi, kohuhu, and coprosma species. The bush is open to grazing and shelter for stock. A slip on one of the gully sides showed good regeneration of native seral species such as toetoe, manuka, tutu, wineberry. Healthy shrubs of *Tupeia* mistletoe occur on host maire trees on the top terrace. As this mistletoe is very palatable to possums, healthy plants are an indicator of effective possum control in the area.

The 'Flat' area is a kahikatea wetland approximately 5 ha. A dam on the northeastern edge of the remnant has blocked drainage in that area but the surrounding vegetation still stands in water. The kahikatea are predominantly pole-sized (young, conical trees) and densely spaced in the wetter areas while diversity of tree species increases towards the dryer ground in the west. The bush is dark and dense in places with open passages possibly used in the past for logging.

Although unfenced, some parts are unaffected by stock, and the whole patch is an excellent example of a kahikatea swamp forest and is certainly worthy of protection.

A notable feature of all the areas is the apparent scarcity of woody weeds – one elderberry seedling was found and *Pinus contorta* adults and juveniles occurred in the Turakina River, just above the Waiaruhe confluence.

Postscript: the patch of some 17 *O. gardneri* trees and shrubs in a tributary of the Turakina a little north of here (NZMS 260/T21/323823) remains a very isolated occurrence of the species. It is still anticipated that it grows (or at least used to grow) elsewhere in the upper Turakina catchment, but further specific searches for the tree daisy might not be the best use of resources. Landowners familiar with the species might be the best hope for finding additional sites. In the meantime, protection of the one known site in this valley is a priority