Ferns (2)
Asplenium flabellifolium (unc)
A. terrestre subsp. maritimum (unc)

Dicotyledonous shrubs (4)
Cassinia leptophylla var. leptophylla (unc)
*Lycium ferocissimum
Pimelea urvilleana (unc)
Coprosma repens

Dicotyledonous lianes and related scrambling plants (4)
Calystegia soldanella (unc)
Muehlenbeckia complexa (unc)
Disphyma australe subsp. australe
Tetragonia trigyna (unc)

Grasses (12)
*Ammophila arenaria (unc)
*Dactylis glomerata (unc)
Deyeuxia billardierei
Chionochloa beddiei (unc)
"Elymus glaucous"
*Festuca arundinacea
F. multinodis
Lachnagrostis filiformis var. filiformis (unc)
*Lolium perenne (unc)
Poa cita (unc)
Rytidosperma petrosum (unc)
Zoysia minima

Sedges (1)
Isolepis nodosus (unc)

Dicotyledonous composite herbs (4)
*Hypochoeris radicata
*Leontodon taraxacoides
Senecio lautus var. lautus
*Sonchus oleraceus

Dicotyledonous herbs (other than composites) (8)
*Anagallis arvensis subsp. arvensis var. arvensis (unc)
Apium prostratum
Colobanthus muelleri (unc)
*Plantago coronopus
P. spathulata subsp. spathulata (unc)
Ranunculus acaulis (unc)
Samolus repens (unc)
Sarcocornia quinqueflora subsp. quinqueflora

Erythrina speciosa in Auckland

R.O. Gardner

In my article on coral trees (Gardner 1992) I mention a tree in Albert Park "near Kitchener Street" as being Erythrina x orba, a hybrid known otherwise only from the Parnell Rose Garden "type" plant.

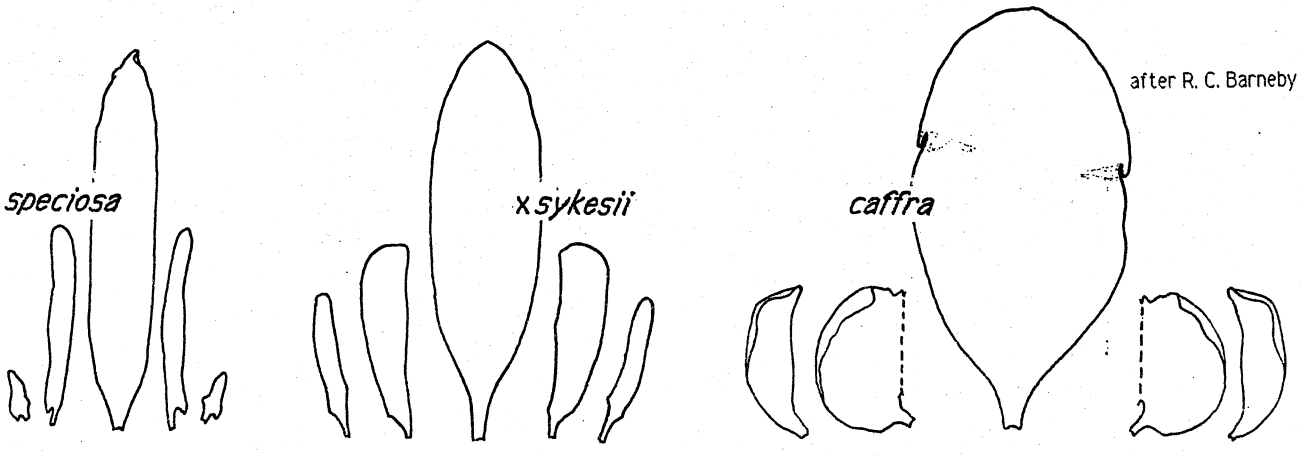
I regret now that I did not thoroughly examine the Albert Park tree. Firstly, it actually is situated just up from Bowen Avenue, near the cork oaks and umbrella trees. Nor is it, as I said, a small tree (with the implication that it might be a scion of the Parnell one). It has a stumpy base of substantial size (c. 70 cm diam.) that currently bears four 3.5 m tall stems each c. 10 cm in diameter. Like E. x orba, its leaves and stems are very thorny, and its bronze-coloured bark comes away in flaky curls. Currently (March) flowers are lacking, but still I am sure that it is not E. x orba but rather E. speciosa, which is

probably one of the former's parents. The multi-stemmed habit is characteristic and so are the leaves, which are larger than those of E. x orba, the leaflets being more elongate and notably heavier in texture, with the veinlets very prominent below.

Erythrina speciosa seems likely to be involved in the parentage not only of E. x orba but also of E. x sykesii, and the floral evidence for this is set out in the accompanying figure (standard, keel petals, wings x 1.2), the other putative parent of E. x sykesii being the South African E. caffra.

Albert Park was planted in the late 1870s, and I would suppose that E. speciosa is one of its original plants. The natural habitat of this Brazilian species is swampy ground, so it is a testimony to its vigour that it has persisted so long in a relatively dry site.

If we knew who supplied the Albert Park plants we would at least know who might have had the capacity to synthesize E. x sykesii. And of course we should now make the cross ourselves.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alan Esler told me of the correct identity of the Albert Park tree.

REFERENCE

Gardner, R.O. 1992 Coral trees (Erythrina, Papilionaceae) of Auckland. Auckland Bot.Soc.Jnl 47(1):32-35.

Some plants of Kawau Island

R.O. Gardner

In March of this year I spent a week investigating the south-western part of the island for the Department of Conservation. There is a Historic Reserve here of c. 170 ha., its focus being Sir George Grey's Mansion House and his garden and plantings on the valley sides around. Nearly all the rest of the Reserve is covered with dense tall self-sown pines (Pinus radiata and P. pinaster). The trees towards Mansion House