Nestegis cunninghamii		*Rubus squarrosus*	
Olearia allomii	**N,TL,E**	*Senecio* aff. *lautus* "Cuvier"	**N,ENL**
Peperomia "purple vein"	**N,ESL**	*S.* aff. *lautus* "Pokohinu"	**N,E**
Peraxilla tetrapetala	**N,?ENL**	*S. marotiri*	**N, ESL**
Picris burbidgei	**N**	*S. quadridentatus*	
Pimelea arenaria	**N, PE**	*S. rufiglandulosus*	**ENL**
P. tomentosa	**N**	*S. scaberulus*	**N**
Pittosporum virgatum	**N**	*Sonchus kirkii*	
Plagianthus regius		*Sicyos australis*	**N**
Polygonum plebeium	**N,PE,V**	*Streblus banksii*	**N**
Pomaderris hamiltonii	**N,E**	*Tetragonia tetragonoides*	
P. polifolia	**N**	*Trilepidea adamsii*	**N,PE**
Pratia "Woodhill"	**N,E**	*Tupeia antarctica*	**N,PE**
Pseudowintera colorata		*Utricularia protrusa*	**N**
Pseudopanax ferox	**N**	*Utricularia novae-zelandiae*	**?PE**
Ranunculus acaulis		*Urtica incisa*	
R. macropus	**PE,HNL**	*Viola lyallii*	**TL,PE**
R. urvilleanus		*Vittadinia australis*	**ENL**
Rorippa divaricata	**N**		

Monocotyledons

Amphibromus fluitans	**N**	*Poa imbecilla*	
Arthropodium candidum	**ENL**	*Potamogeton pectinatus*	**?PE**
Austrofestuca littoralis	**N**	*Prasophyllum colensoi*	
Baumea complanata	**N,PE**	*Prasophyllum* aff. *patens*	**N**
Bulbophyllum tuberculatum		*Pterostylis cardiostigma*	
Carex litorosa		*Pterostylis nutans*	**N,PE,V**
Cordyline indivisa	**ENL**	*Pterostylis puberula*	**N,PE**
Corybas cryptanthus	**TL**	*Pterostylis tasmanica*	**N,V**
Corybas rotundifolius	**?ESL**	*Rytidosperma clavatum*	
Danhatchia australis	**TL**	*Schoenus carsei*	**PE**
Dichelachne inaequiglumis	**TL**	*S. concinnus*	
Earina aestivalis	**TL**	*S. nitens*	
Eleocharis neozelandica	**N**	*Sparganium subglobosum*	
Fimbristylis squarrosa	**N**	*Spiranthes novaezelandiae*	
Gastrodia cunninghamii		*Thelymitra aemula*	**TL**
Gastrodia minor	**ENL**	*Thelymitra tholiformis*	**N,TL**
Hierochloe redolens	**PE**	*Trisetum* aff. *antarcticum* (*T.*"ordinary")	
Juncus caespiticus		*Uncinia clavata*	**ENL**
Juncus holoschoenus	**N,PE**	*Zoysia minima*	
Luzula banksiana var. *banksiana*	**ENL**	*Z. planifolia*	
Paspalum orbiculare			
Poa cita	**HNL**		

KERMADEC ISLANDS

Ferns

Cyathea kermadecensis	**N,E,TL**

Dicotyledons

Boehmeria australis var. *dealbata*	**N,E,TL**	*Pittosporum* aff. *crassifolium*	**E**
Hebe breviracemosa	**N,E,TL**	*Senecio lautus* var. *esperensis*	**N,E,TL**
Peperomia leptostachya	**N,?HSL,V**		

Monocotyledons

Lepturus repens	**N,ESL,V**

Oaia Island, South Muriwai, all surf, sun and the odd *Lepidium*

P. J. de Lange

Cameron & Taylor (1989) provided a detailed account of the vegetation of Oaia Island, an 0.14 ha rock, comprised of Miocene aged pillow lava, offset with a cap of rock hard guano. Situated 1.4 km from the nearest projection of the Waitakere coast, the island is located within the breaker/surf zone of the west coast, and as discussed by Cameron & Taylor (1989), its degree of exposure can make landing "troublesome".

During October 1996 I, and another individual who wishes to remain unnamed (hereafter "X") decided to land on Oaia to assess seal numbers using the island as a haul out, and to determine if Cook's scurvy grass (*Lepidium oleraceum*) survived on the island. Cook's scurvy grass (*sensu* de Lange & Norton 1995) was last collected from Oaia in 1953 and was not seen by Cameron & Taylor (1989) during their visit. This lead them to speculate that it may have been eradicated as the result of the nesting behaviour of gannets (*Morus serrator*). Cameron & Taylor's visit coincided with the onset of Cyclone Bola and as a result their trip was short and hazardous. Although *L. oleraceum* was not seen it is quite possible that it may have been present in small numbers, but wasn't seen because of the conditions during the trip. For this reason it was considered necessary to revisit Oaia to determine the status *of L. oleraceum*.

To reach Oaia we employed the unrivalled services of the Muriwai Lifeguards who provided us with all the necessary safety equipment, a small zodiac or "rubber duckie" and an absolutely brilliant life saver. This chap, whose name I regret has escaped my memory, had not the slightest of qualms when we stood on Muriwai Beach observing the decidedly lumpy sea. I, on the other hand, felt a growing sense of panic as I was still rather naive with regard to the finer art of being propelled in a zodiac through raging surf. Against my better judgement, I shrugged off that nagging last minute "have I done the right thing" feeling and we set off.

Some 200 m out from the beach I had no option of turning back, and I was now rapidly discovering what being airborne in big waves was all about. One simply had no time to be scared. After what seemed like ages of adrenaline packed, gut churning, bowel crashing, thumping in our little boat, we reached the shore ward side of Oaia to observe plenty of seals (*Arctocephalus foresterii*) gambolling about in furious white foam. From time to time we even saw the island! "X" then announced what had hitherto been a major unvoiced concern, "Hope there are no sharks in that!" and before I could ask who was going off first, I found myself being hurtled in the little boat toward a rocky shelf momentarily cleared of foam. Resigned to my fate, and with no sense of finesse, I flung myself onto the exposed shelf just in time for a great surge to push me up over razor sharp barnacles. I was then uinceremoniously dumped in a bloodied mess, marginally further up slope and, not being desirous of another aquatic push, I set to a rapid scramble for a more firmer grip on the slimy seaweed and barnacle encrusted rock before the next wave crashed in. Thus in my panic I failed to appreciate the close proximity of a large seal, whose observation of an admittedly half drowned, battered and bleeding human between it and the sea, did little to please it, with the result that we both made opposing chaotic scrambles for safety - the seal to avoid the human and the human to avoid being crushed and/or bitten by a vast mass of indescribably horrible, fishy halitosis.

Once on *terra firma* (dripping water and blood) I was surprised and concerned to observe "X" being systematically pummelled into the rocks before disappearing into the froth only to re-emerge some 200 m away in a screaming ball of hysteria. Evidently "X" had attempted to land. Never mind! Once "X" was hauled into the little boat, by the visibly unshaken, cool, calm and collected life guard, I was told (largely by sign language, as the noise of the surf did not permit intelligible vocalisation) to hurry up and look for the plant myself.

Clambering up the cliffs dripping water, being periodically stabbed by the wickedly sharp pointed bills of nesting gannets, and all the time aware that "X" and company could be flipped into the surf at any moment, was not conducive to good botanising. A brief scramble to the summit revealed nothing more exciting than drifts of flowering horokaka (*Disphyma australe*), *Einadia trigonos* and taupata (*Coprosma repens*), samples of which were collected. I also snapped a few photographs before nervously descending the cliffs for the pick up.

Back at the rock shelf I discovered to my horror that the surf had grown worse! Despite shouting my intentions of swimming it back to the boat I could not be heard above the surf and I found myself reluctantly faced with the prospect of jumping into the rapidly approaching vessel. In the split seconds that followed the exact sequence of events is a little hazy. I do recollect touching the rubber of the boat briefly before a **HUGE** wave hit me broadsides and I found myself being dragged down under what seemed many metres of water, spat out, and

then battered into the rocks before being sucked down again. As with a car accident, time really has no meaning when you are subject to such turmoil. Everything just slows into a weird dream. After the third dunking and bashing I managed to reach the boat, where upon I was dragged in by its occupants (the life guard mentioning that what I had just experienced "was really cool"), pack and all still intact (remarkably), and we began a laboured "sprint" to the shore. The way back was, if anything even less pleasant than the trip out, and as a person who has never professed any desire to learn surfing, I can now add to my credentials my involuntary participation in the exercise.

Once on the beach we all laughed, groggy with saltwater inhalation and probably too high on adrenaline to appreciate the danger we had just subjected ourselves to, while the life guard grinned and suggested we go out again to catch that surf! Needless to say "X" and I declined. Back at home I was reminded of just how close it had all been when I surveyed my ruined wet, poly-prop, the numerous cuts, abrasions and bruises (to name a few injuries). "X" fared similarly.

Still every cloud has a silver lining. While cleaning my gear I was surprised to see, mixed up with a specimen of taupata, a small sprig of Cook's scurvy grass! The first time I have ever collected a plant without seeing it first. Obviously the species still survives on Oaia but where and in what quantity exactly, I for one have no burning desire to find out. I wonder if there are any volunteers out there for a future Botanical Society trip to Oaia?

References

Cameron, E.K.; Taylor, G.A. 1989: Oaia Island, South Muriwai. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal 44:*11-12.

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A. 1995: To what New Zealand plants does the vernacular "scurvy grass" refer? *New Zealand Journal of Botany 34:* 417-420.

Gunnera dentata - Karioitahi Beach

Steve Benham

Introduction

Whilst searching for flowering specimens of *Zoysia minima* (a drought tolerant grass) on the unstable and severely slumping cliffs of Karioitahi Beach during late November 1996, I discovered four extant populations of *Gunnera dentata* sensu lato (AK 230766). This taxon is listed on the draft Auckland Regional Threatened Plant List (P.J. de Lange & E.K.Cameron 1997). A co-associate with the gunnera populations was the diminutive *Leptinella dispersa* subsp. *rupestris.* Both species were presumed extinct from this location. Small patches of *Leptinella* were also seen growing on the wet sandstone cliffs with *Limosella lineata* directly below the area where the gunneras occurred.

Previous collections from Karioitahi

The last herbarium specimen of *G. dentata* to be lodged in the AK herbarium was in March 1937 by E. Phillips Turner (AK 101244). The voucher label only states Waiuku dunes (Kariotahi ?). The earliest collection (AK 101245 - 46) was made by H. Carse in 1899 at "Kariotahi" (sic).