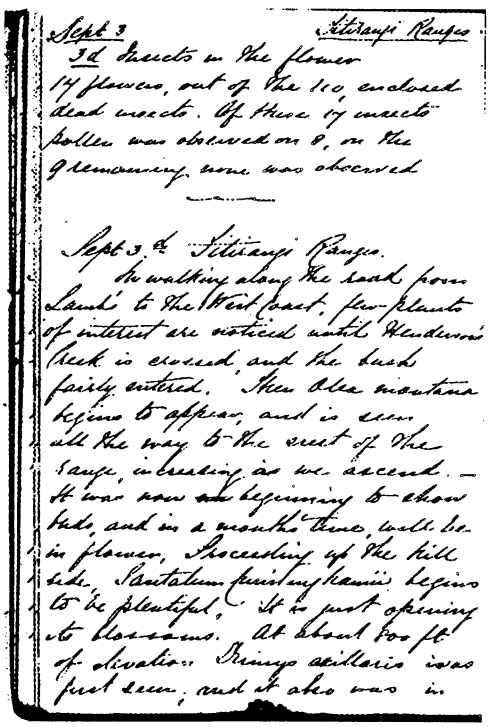
Excerpts from Thomas Cheeseman's Field Notebooks

transcribed by Bec Stanley

(1) While searching for historic sites of our nationally and regionally threatened plants I looked through the field notebooks of Thomas Cheeseman (held at the Auckland Museum Library). This excerpt comprises notes made by Cheeseman as he walked down the Mangemangeroa (formerly Maungamaungaroa) Creek in June 1873. I have transcribed this entry adding asterisks to species not present in a recent species list (Stephens 1995) and adding name changes in brackets where applicable. Part of the Mangemangeroa area covered by Cheeseman is now a 22 ha reserve managed by the Manukau City Council. Of particular interest to my work was the historic record of the mistletoe *Tupeia antarctica*, now listed as Rare (Cameron *et al.* 1995) and now thought to be extinct in the Auckland Conservancy. Previously the only historic sites for this species known in Auckland were at Rewiti and Omaha (de Lange 1997).


Sept 3 Titirangi Ranges
3d insects in the flowers
14 flowers, out of the 100, enclosed dead insects. Of these 13 insects [illegible] was observed on 8, in the 6 remaining, none was observed

Sept 3d Titirangi Ranges.
In walking along the road from Lunds to the West coast, few plants of interest are noticed until Henderson's Creek is crossed, and the bush fairly entered. Then Olea montana begins to appear, and is seen all the way to the crest of the Range, increasing as we ascend. – It was now [illegible] beginning to show buds, and in a month's time, will be in flower. Proceeding up the hill side, Santalum [illegible] begins to be plentiful. It is just opening its blossoms. At about 800 ft of elevation Rimu asillaris was just seen, and it also was in

June 5th Howick to Maungamaungaroa 1873 (from notebook five 'Plants found in the North Island').

"The coast near Howick is bound by cliffs of moderate height composed of tertiary clays and sandstones arranged in nearly horizontal strata. The vegetation is decidedly scanty. Metrosideros robusta, Olearia furfuracea*, C. lucida* and C. robusta, Leucopogon fasciculata, and Cassinia leptophylla* (*Ozothamnus leptophyllus*) all the principal trees. Among herbaceous plants, Astelia banksii is abundant as it always is in similar situations in the northern part of the province of Auckland. Cladium sinclairii* (*Machaerina*), Arthropodium cirratum*, Poa anceps, Lobelia anceps, are also common. About 2 miles from Howick the coast suddenly turns to the south and due centre the Maungamaungaroa Creek. This is a long shallow gully running nearly north and south. The tide runs up this creek for about a mile and a half but it is of inconsiderable depth and extremely muddy. The western side of the creek is steep and abrupt, and is distinguished with several patches of bush. The eastern side has a more gradual ascent and is principally open bush. Near the side of the creek Carpodetus serratus, Myrsine urvillei (M. australis), Dysoxylum spectabile, Nesodaphne tarairi, N. tawa (*both now in the genus *Beilschmiedia*), and other common trees are found. The underwood is principally supplejack*, Rubus, Parsonsia, Myrtus bullata* (*Lophomyrtus bullata*), Freycinetia* etc. Near the bridge on the Maraetai Road, Metrosideros florida (M. fulgens) was observed still exhibiting a profusion of blossoms notwithstanding the late period of the year. A solitary plant of Tupeia antarctica was also seen parasitic on Panax arboreus (*Pseudopanax arboreus*).*

*Leaving the creek and ascending the hills on the eastern side of the stream, patches of bush were observed occupying the hollows and sides of many of the valleys. These patches gradually increased in width towards the head of the gullies and at length met, covering the top of the gullies of Turanga and Maungamaungaroa streams with a pretty continuous belt of forest. N. tawa, N. tarairi, Vitex littoralis (*Vitex lucens*), Myrsine salicina* and M. urvillei, Dysoxylum spectabile are the commonest trees. A few specimens of the kauri* were seen. The rimu and the kahikatea were more frequently met with, but still form a very small proportion of the bush. The undergrowth has been pretty well cleared off by cattle and what is left is composed of the commoner species. Nephrodium hispidum (*Lastreopsis hispida*) is luxuriant and of large size in many places. Good specimens of Leptopteris hymenophylloides were also seen".*

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Peter de Lange for checking I had the name changes correct.

References

Cameron, E. K; de Lange, P. J, Given, D. R; Johnson, P. J; Ogle, C. C. 1995b: New Zealand botanical society threatened and local plants list(1995 revision). *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter 39*: 15-28.

de Lange, P. J. 1997: Status of loranthaceous misteltoes in the Auckland Conservancy pp 27-30 in: de Lange, P.J., Norton, D. A. eds. New Zealand's loranthaceous misteltoes, Proceedings of a workshop hosted by threatened species unit, Department of Conservation, Cass 17-20 July 1995.
Stephens, D. 1995: Vegetation Survey of Mangemangeroa Reserve, a report prepared for the Manukau City Council in Somerville (Mangemangeroa) Reserve Draft Management Strategy.

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(2) I thought this entry was interesting because of the reference to *Phylloglossum drummondii.* Cheeseman notes this species at several sites in his field notebooks including at Waikumete, where it was also abundant in 1873, and at the Mangatawhiri and Maramarua swamps in 1876. This species is now ranked as Rare (Cameron *et al.* 1995) and appears to have been last seen in the Auckland Conservancy in 1971 at Waikumete Cemetery by Elizabeth Edgar (E. K. Cameron pers. comm.). Also of interest is the mention that fires 'almost monthly devastate the country between Whau and Titirangi'. *Phylloglossum drummondii* is a species which requires open sites, and favours recently burned shrubland areas. This entry is from his notes for Onehunga to South Whau (Blockhouse Bay), Manukau Harbour.

August 21st 1873 South Whau (from notebook five 'Plants found in the North Island').

"Today I walked from Onehunga to the South Whau, by the side of the Manukau. As I did not go further than the Whau Blockhouse the whole of my botanising was in the Auckland District as defined by Mr. Kirk. There was nothing seen worthy of mention until Cape Horn was searched. Here Rhabdothamnus solandri is very plentiful on the cliffs, among the pohutukawa. Asplenium hookerianum also occurs, but of small size. The pretty moss Hypoptergium ciliatum (Catharomnion ciliatum) was picked on the cliffs. Mr Kirk does not include this species in his Auckland List. It is also plentiful in the College Glen. Dracophyllum squarrosum (D. sinclairii), Cladium sinclairii (Machaerina sinclairii) are common on the cliffs. Phormium colensoi (P. cookianum) dots over the clay hills just above Cape Horn. Proceeding towards the Whau Phylloglossum drumondii was seen in abundance but nothing of importance until the little Bay just to the east of the Whau Blockhouse. Here a little stream runs into the Manukau and by its side a small patch of bush has escaped so far the fires which almost monthly devastate the country between Whau and Titirangi. In this locality some interesting plants were noticed. Microlaena avenacea, Nertera cunninghamii, Lagenophora petiolata, are examples. That most handsome moss Bryum blandum was also plentiful. Isothecium marginatum (Hypnodendron marginatum) was also gathered. This latter moss is not mentioned in Kirk's Auckland List".

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Jessica Beever for helping me with moss names.

References

Cameron, E. K; de Lange, P. J; Given, D. R; Johnson, P. J; Ogle, C. C. 1995b. New Zealand botanical society threatened and local plants list (1995 revision). *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 39: 15-28.

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(3) In Volume 53 (1) of the *Auckland Botanical Society Journal (1998)* Steve Benham, Brent Torrens and myself reported on our survey of Rangitoto Island for *Lepidium flexicaule*. The survey was based on a specimen collected by Cheeseman in 1882 (AK 4481). The label on the specimen simply reads 'Rangitoto'. I thought it would be useful to check whether in his field notebook Cheeseman described a more specific location which would help us narrow down our search. Unfortunately, the only notes I could find from any trip Cheeseman made to Rangitoto was a trip he made in 1874 and the notes taken took the form of a list (with no locations specified). Cheeseman uses the manuscript name 'Lepidium Richardii' for *L. flexicaule*. Other synonyms for *L. flexicaule* include *L. incisum* which was illegitimate (i.e. not in accordance with the rules governing botanical names) and replaced by *Nasturtium neozelandicum* (Garnock-Jones & Norton 1995) which in turn was replaced by Kirk when he described the species as *L. flexicaule*. Cheeseman also recorded *Austrofestuca littoralis* which is now restricted to Great Barrier Island. I have transcribed the list from Rangitoto by Cheeseman below, adding name changes in brackets where applicable.

Rangitoto Dec 24th 1874 Following plants were observed on Rangitoto (from notebook 21):

Dodonaea viscosa
Coriaria ruscifolia (*C. arborea*)
Sophora tetraptera
Leptospermum scoparium
Leptospermum ericoides (*Kunzea ericoides*)
Metrosideros robusta
Metrosideros tomentosa (*Metrosideros excelsa*)
Epilobium junceum (*E. billardierianum* subsp. *cinereum*)
Mesembryanthemum australe (*Disphyma australe*)
Apium australe (*A. prostratum*)
Daucus brachiatus (*D. glochidiatus*)
Panax arboreum (*Pseudopanax arboreus*)
Griselinia lucida
Coprosma lucida
C. robusta
Olearia furfuracea
Bidens pilosa
Erechtites quadridentata (*Senecio quadridentatus*)
Brachyglottis repanda
Cyathodes acerosa (*C. juniperina*)
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Myrsine urvillei (*M. australis*)
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Solanum aviculare
Veronica salicifolia (*Hebe stricta* var. *stricta*)
Myoporum laetum
Salicornia indica (*Sarcocornia qinqueflora*)
Earina autumnalis
E. mucronata
Dendrobium cunninghamii "was observed in large masses on the rocks and was now in full flower".
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Thelymitra longifolia
Orthoceras solandrii (*O. novae-zelandiae*)
Dianella intermedia (*D. nigra*)
Astelia cunninghamii var. *hookerianum* (*A. solandri*)
Astelia banksii
Dichelachne stipoides (*Stipa stipoides*)
Agrostis billardierii (*Lachnagrostis billardierei*)
Festuca littoralis (*Austrofestuca littoralis*)
Hymenophyllum multifidum
Trichomanes reniforme
Cheilanthes tenuifolia (*C. sieberi* subsp. *sieberi*)
Pellea rotundifolia
Pteris aquilina (*P. esculentum*)
Asplenium lucidum (*A. oblongifolium*)
A. flabellifolium
A falcatum (*A. polyodon*)
A. flaccidum (*A. flaccidum* subsp. *flaccidum*)
Lepidium richardii
Polypodium rupestre (*Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*)
P. billardierei (*Phymatasorus diversifolius*)
Lycopodium billardierei (*L. varium*)
Psilotum triquetrum (*P. nudum*)

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Peter de Lange and David Norton for checking the manuscript name of *L. flexicaule*, and to Peter for proof reading and checking the names of some of the grasses.

References
Garnock-Jones, P.J., Norton, D.A. 1995. *Lepidium naufragorum* (Brassicaceae), a new species from Westland, and notes on other New Zealand coastal species of *Lepidium*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 33:* pp 43-51.