# ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF OTAMAHUA/QUAIL ISLAND

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A floristic list for Otamahua/Quail Island, in Lyttelton Harbour was published by Burrows, Wilson and Meurk (1999). It contained 357 vascular species known to have been present 1976-1999. Of these 109 represented "original" indigenous species, while 28 other indigenous species, otherwise present on Banks Peninsula, had been planted on the island up to August 1999. A further 5 planted indigenous species are not native to Banks Peninsula and are regarded as "introduced" on Otamahua.

During the 2000 winter 3 more species from the Banks Peninsula flora were planted (Table 1). Up to the end of March 2001 a further 4 indigenous species, 1 indigenous hybrid and 17 introduced species have been found, naturalised, (or in 2 cases planted) on the island. These additions are listed in Table 1 using the same notation as for the 1999 article. The total known vascular flora of the island 1976–March 2001 now includes 381 species.

Some of the naturalised species in Table 1 have established recently; others appear to be of long standing. Illustrating that there is a degree of natural, as well as human-aided, flux in the floristic dynamics are the indications here and in the 1999 list: (a) that some taxa arrived on Otamahua unaided, relatively recently (e.g. *Dryopteris filix-mas,* male fern; *Paesia scaberula,* scented fern; *Clematis vitalba,* old man's beard; *Racosperma* cf. *decurrens,* green wattle; (b) that some other taxa arrived recently by accidental, or semi-deliberate human agency, e.g. *Lycopersicon esculentum,* tomato; *Prunus cerasifera,* plum; *Oenanthe pimpinelloides,* parsley dropwort.

Of course, as noted above, in Table 1, and the 1999 paper, various additional indigenous (and some bulbous cultivar) taxa have been deliberately planted recently. At the same time considerable numbers of unwanted species have been removed. A few taxa also were lost through natural processes (e.g. *Potamogeton cheesemanii,* red pondweed; *Arctotheca calendula,* cape weed). *Myrsine divaricata,* weeping mapou, lost between 1976 and 1998, was reintroduced by planting in 2000. *Opuntia cylindrica,* considered lost in the 1999 list, was rediscovered (and removed) in 2001.

Even on a small (85 ha) and relatively well-botanised island new botanical finds keep cropping up. This emphasises the uncertainty of ever being sure that regional floristic lists are complete.

## REFERENCE

Burrows, C. J.; Wilson, H. D.; Meurk, C.D. 1999: The ecological restoration of Otamahua/Quail Island. 2. The vascular land flora and vegetation. *New Zealand Natural Sciences 24*: 127–150.

**Table 1. Additions to the Vascular Plant Flora of Otamahua/Quail Island 1999–2001.**

Key: **O**, originally present; **P (D),** planted deliberately, recently; **P**, planted in the 1980s or earlier; **N**, naturalised on Otamahua. **(R)**, immigrated naturally, recently; **X**, removed from the flora between 1976 and 1998; **L**, lost or removed recently; *, first record for the South Island. Location – general position on the island. Habitats are indicated only for naturalised species or indigenous species. Abundance, **few** – only a few tens observed; **mod.** – moderate numbers. Record, 3 -observed during recent fieldwork or (*Prunus persicaria*) a personal communication.

| | Family | O | P | Location | Specific Habitat | Abundance | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A. Indigenous Species** | | | | | | | |
| **Shrubs** | | | | | | | |
| *Coprosma robusta* x *C. propinqua* hybrid | Rubiac. | •(R) | | E | under conifers | one | 3 |
| *Melicope simplex* poataniwha | Rutac. | | •(D) | E | | few | 3 |
| **Vines** | | | | | | | |
| *Clematis paniculata* white c. | Ranunc. | | •(D) | E | | few | 3 |
| **Herbs** | | | | | | | |
| Monocotyledons | | | | | | | |
| *Cyperus ustulatus* upoko | Cyper. | | •(D) | SE | | few | 3 |
| *Microlaena stipoides* meadow rice grass | Poac. | • | | S | under deciduous oaks | few | 3 |
| **Ferns** | | | | | | | |
| *Azolla filiculoides* water f. | Salvin. | • | | W | Stock Dam | mod | 3 |
| *Histiopteris incisa* mata | Dennst. | •(R) | | S | conifer stump | one | 3 |
| *Paesia scaberula* scented f. | Dennst. | •(R) | | E | conifer stump | one | 3 |
| **B. Introduced Species** | | **P** | **N** | | | | |
| **Trees** | | | | | | | |
| *Prunus persicaria* blackboy peach | Rosac. | •X | | E | | one | 3 |
| *Racosperma* cf. *decurrens* green wattle | Mimos. | | •(R)L | NE | scree beneath cliff, near sea level | five (juvenile) | |
| **Herbs** | | | | | | | |
| Grasses | | | | | | | |
| *Lolium multiflorum* Italian ryegrass | Poac. | | • | NE | scree beneath cliff | few | 3 |
| Other monocotyledons | | | | | | | |
| *Allium triquetrum* three-cornered garlic | Alliac. | • | • | E | under conifers | few | 3 |
| *Leucojum aestivum* snowflake | Amaryll. | •(D) | | S | Leper grave | few | 3 |
| Dicotyledons | | | | | | | |
| *Consolida ambigua* larkspur | Ranunc. | • | • | E | bare, disturbed area | one | 3 |
| *Conyza bonariensis* fleabane | Aster. | | •L | E | bare, disturbed area | few | 3 |
| *Cotyledon orbiculata* elephant's ears | Crassul. | | • | N | beneath cliffs | few | 3 |
| *Epilobium ciliatum* tall willow herb | Onagr. | | • | E | bare, disturbed area | few | 3 |
| *Euphorbia peplus* milkweed | Euphorb. | | • | E | bare, disturbed area | few | 3 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Hieracium* sp. cf. *praealtum* hawkweed | Aster. | • | E | Leper Hospital site | few | 3 |
| *Lycopersicon esculentum* tomato | Solan. | • | N | cliffs | one | 3 |
| *Malva nicaeensis* French mallow | Malv. | • | NE | scree beneath cliffs | few | 3 |
| *Mycelis muralis* wall lettuce | Aster. | • | E | Oak wood | few | 3 |
| *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* parsley dropwort | Apiac. | •L* | E | grassland | few | 3 |
| *Orobanche minor* broomrape | Orobanch. | • | E | grassland under trees | few | 3 |
| *Parentucellia viscosa* tarweed | Scroph. | • | E | disturbed area | one | 3 |