

WANGANUI PLANT LIST NO 71

Vascular plants and vegetation of Lake Marahau, between Kai-iwi and Waitotara.

Colin Ogle and Wanganui Botanical Group.

27 March 1993

(Revised 2 December 1997; last revised 26 Oct 2011)

* denotes species adventive to this area
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Species marked (K) were listed by Kelly (1978), and those marked (K+) were listed by both Kelly (1978) and our 1997 survey.

GYMNOSPERMS

* *Pinus muricata* bishop pine

DICOT SHRUBS AND LIANES

<i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata
* <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	boxthorn
* <i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	karo
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	small-leaved pohuehue
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	poroporo

DICOT HERBS

<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	bidibidi
* <i>Amaranthus lividus</i>	redroot
* <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel
* <i>Aster subulatus</i>	sea aster
* <i>Bidens frondosa</i>	beggar's ticks
* <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	starwort
* <i>Centella uniflora</i>	
<i>Centipeda</i> sp. ¹	sneezewort
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
* <i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	fleabane
* <i>Coronopus didymus</i> (= <i>Lepidium didyma</i>)	twin-cress
<i>Epilobium insulare</i>	willow-herb
<i>Epilobium nummulariifolium</i>	willow-herb
<i>Epilobium pallidiflorum</i>	willow-herb
<i>Euchiton involucratus</i> (was <i>Gnaphalium involucratum</i>)	cudweed
* <i>Galium palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw
<i>Glossostigma elatinoides</i>	

¹ Recorded in 1993 as *Centipeda minima*, but far more likely to be *C. cunninghamii* or *C. aotearoana*

Haloragis erecta	
Hydrocotyle moschata	hairy pennywort
Hydrocotyle pterocarpa	
Hydrocotyle sulcata	
Hypericum pusillum (was H. japonicum)	
Lilaeopsis sp.	
* Ludwigia palustris	
* Myosotis laxa ssp. caespitosa	water forget-me-not
Myriophyllum propinquum (+K)	water milfoil
* Persicaria (Polygonum hydropiper) (+K? as Polygonum. spp)	water pepper
Persicaria decipiens (was Polygonum salicifolium)	willow weed
Pseudognaphalium sp (P.luteo-album agg.)	cudweed
* Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup
* Ranunculus sceleratus	celery-leaved buttercup
* Ranunculus trichophyllus (K)	water buttercup
Rorippa palustris	
*Rorippa sp. (unidentified)	watercress
* Senecio bipinnatisectus	fireweed
Senecio glomeratus	fireweed
* Solanum nigrum	black nightshade
* Sonchus asper	prickly sowthistle
* Stellaria media	chickweed
Wahlenbergia violacea (listed as W. marginata)	harebell

MONOCOT HERBS

* Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bent
* Anthoxanthum odoratum	sweet vernal
Bolboschoenus fluviatilis	Purua grass, kukuraho
Carex maorica	
Carex secta s.s.	
Carex sinclairii	
Carex virgata	
Cortaderia (Austroderia) toetoe	toetoe
* Cyperus congestus	
* Cyperus eragrostis	
Cyperus ustulatus	mariscus
Eleocharis acuta (+K)	sharp spikedge
Eleocharis gracilis	slender spikedge
* Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog
* Juncus articulatus	jointed-leaved rush
Juncus australis	
Juncus distegus	
Juncus edgariae (listed as J. gregiflorus)	
Juncus pallidus	
Juncus sarophorus	
Lemna sp (L. minor of NZ authors) (K)	duckweed

Machaerina (Baumea) rubiginosa	
* Paspalum distichum	Mercer grass
Phormium tenax (+K)	harakeke, NZ flax
* Potamogeton crispus (K)	curled pondweed
Potamogeton ochreatus (K)	
Potamogeton cheesemanii (K)	pondweed
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani (K)	kapungawha
* Sisyrinchium "blue"	
* Spirodela punctata (K)	purple-backed duckweed
Typha orientalis (+K)	raupo
Wolffia australiana (K)	water-meal

FERNS

Azolla filiculoides ssp. rubra	floating water fern
Blechnum minus	swamp kiokio
Pteridium esculentum	bracken

CHARACEAN ALGAE

Chara corallina (K)
Nitella hookeri (K)

VEGETATION

Dune Lake divided into two by a causeway; grazed to edges in places but some parts fenced, especially where pines are planted. A fence also protects a planted area of mixed exotic ornamental trees and shrubs at the western end of the system.

PLANT COMMUNITIES

N.B.: Underlined names > 50% cover; round brackets = 10-20% cover; other names = 20-50% cover

Raupo swamp: localised patches in absence of grazing

Kukuraho (Epilobium pallidiflorum) - beggar's ticks swamp: area at western end, beside ornamental plantings.

Carex sinclairii - (swamp kiokio) - (Machaerina rubiginosa) sedgeland: on dune slope with seepage, western end in fenced area. *This the most unusual vegetation seen at L. Marahau*

(Centipeda) - (Glossostigma) - (Ludwigia) "turf": in grazed areas on periodically flooded shore.

Sharp spike sedge - celery leaved buttercup - redroot - Juncus edgariae herbfield: on grazed shore, at upper limit of normal water level.

Juncus edgariae rushland: in grazed, damp hollows adjoining lake, especially on coastal side of median causeway.

PLANT SPECIES

Total native flora rather low for such a large lake, and also low relative to other dune lakes of region. A long history of stockgrazing has probably reduced the variety of larger sedges and other herbs and native shrubs; where it occurs, fencing seems to be comparatively recent but is certainly beneficial in that many native species were seen only inside fenced areas.

Kelly (1978) recorded the tall sedge *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*; this may have now gone through grazing. The apparent absence now of most floating and submerged water plants recorded by Kelly (1978) needs further investigation.

The most notable plants (species which are rare or localised in the Wanganui/South Taranaki districts) include:

Epilobium pallidiflorum: mostly scattered in swamp beside planted ornamental shrubs at western end of lake.

Bolboschoenus fluviatilis: dense beds, as above.

Carex sinclairii: A medium-sized "cutty-grass", in seepage on dune slope at western end of lake; there are only about four records of this sedge between here and Palmerston North.

Hydrocotyle sulcata: Creeping herb beside raupo patch adjoining causeway; very few records in district.

Hydrocotyle pterocarpa: Semi-scrambling herb among raupo near causeway; local in district.

Centipeda sp: Common in places on periodically flooded lake edge; some species are listed as a nationally threatened species though status of the one at L Marahau is uncertain, pending re-identification. .

REFERENCE

Kelly, D. 1978. A plant distribution survey of twelve coastal lakes. In "Sand country lakes eutrophication study". Rangitikei-Wanganui Catchment Board and Regional Water Board, Marton.