

VEGETATION OF SPECTACLE ISLAND, HAWKESBURY RIVER, NEW SOUTH WALES

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ABSTRACT

Webb, Joan B. (Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, Lindfield, New South Wales, Australia 2070) 1981. *Vegetation of Spectacle Island, Hawkesbury River, New South Wales. Cunninghamia* 1(1): 115-119. The vegetation of Spectacle Island is mapped and the species present are recorded.

INTRODUCTION

Spectacle Island (Lat. 33° 32' S, Long. 151° 12' E) is a small Hawkesbury Sandstone island in the Hawkesbury River, near its junction with Mooney Mooney Creek. It is about 1 200 m long and 600 m at its widest point, up to 123 m high, and has generally similar vegetation to that of the nearby Brisbane Water National Park (Benson & Fallding, this issue). It is a Nature Reserve administered by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

VEGETATION

The vegetation varies with aspect and topography, and may be mapped using nine distinct units (Figure 1). The species recorded are listed in Table 1.

1. North-facing, gentle slope, dominated by *Angophora floribunda* and grasses.
2. Mudflats, with the mangrove, *Avicennia marina* var. *australasica*.
3. Typical gully flora, land rising sharply from the river; *Angophora floribunda*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Notelaea longifolia*, *Solanum* sp. and *Casuarina glauca*.
4. Steeply rising land dominated by *Eucalyptus gummifera*, *Angophora costata*, *Casuarina littoralis*, a number of *Lomandra* species and grasses. In area (e) a number of exotics are present, not abundant, but consistent with other evidence of European occupation such as concrete slabs and a constructed stone wall. Similar exotics (mainly succulents) are found near the eastern beachfront where two fishermen's huts are still *in situ*.
5. Southern facing aspect, steep slope leading to vertical scarp; area dominated by *Acacia elata*, *Xanthorrhoea* sp., *Pteridium esculentum*, *Casuarina glauca* on lower slopes and *Casuarina torulosa* and *Casuarina littoralis* higher up. The vegetation here is denser than on other parts of the island.
6. Relatively flat area of land, clay soil, only area of *Eucalyptus punctata* on the island.
7. Mahoganies, *E. umbra* subsp. *umbra* and *E. resinifera*, on the top and edges of the cliffs.
8. Flat top of the island, open woodland with only *Imperata cylindrica*. No understorey of *Xanthorrhoea* or other shrubs conspicuous on the rest of the island. Trees here are *Eucalyptus gummifera* and *Angophora costata*. Scattered shrubs of *Banksia marginata*, *Xylomelum pyriforme*, *Gompholobium latifolium*, *Kunzea ambigua* and *Xanthorrhoea* sp. occur around the margins of this highest area.
9. Gully flora close under the cliffs.

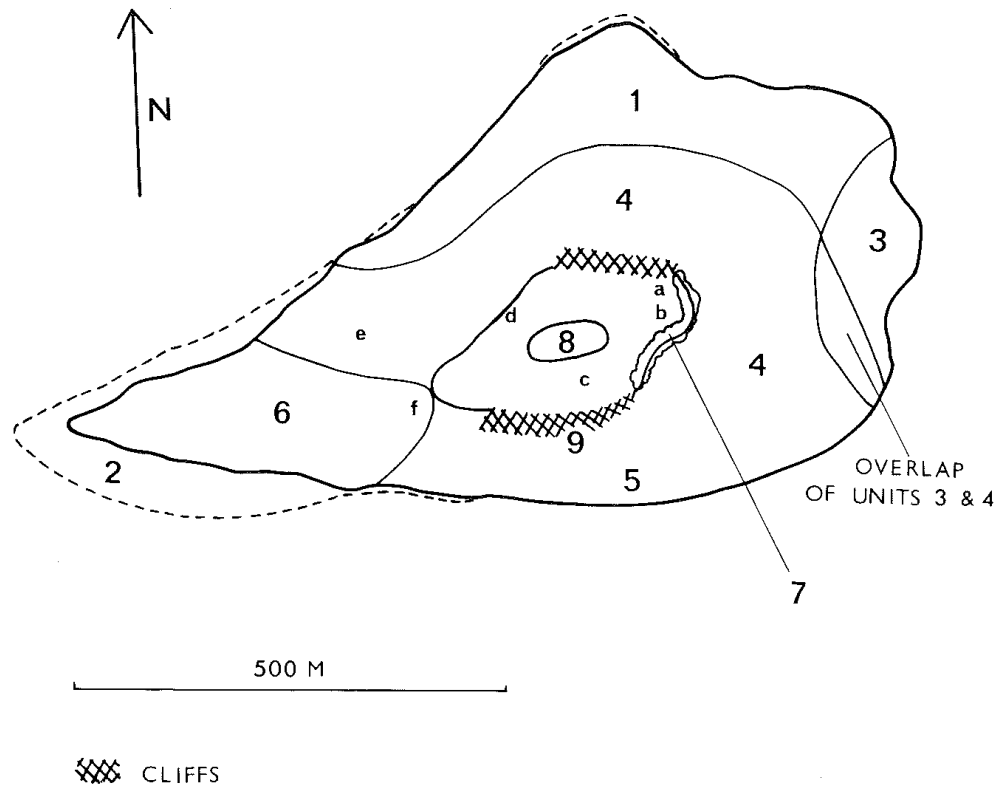


Figure 1. Sketch map of Spectacle Island showing vegetation units.

TABLE 1

Plant species recorded on Spectacle Island

Total number of recorded species = 128.

R = rare, i.e. not sighted more than once or twice.

a, b, c, d, etc. = positions on Figure 1.

Numbers 1-9 = vegetation units on Figure 1.

* = exotic species.

PTERIDOPHYTES

Adiantaceae

Adiantum aethiopicum

A. hispidulum

Pellaea falcata

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium flabellifolium

Blechnaceae

Blechnum ambiguum

B. cartilagineum

Cyatheaceae

Cyathea sp.

Davalliaceae

Davallia pyxidata

Dennstaedtiaceae

Histiopteris incisa

Pteridium esculentum

Gleicheniaceae

Sticherus sp.

Lindsaeaceae

Lindsaea microphylla

Osmundaceae

Todea barbara

Psilotaceae

Psilotum nudum

ANGIOSPERMS

DICOTYLEDONS

Acanthaceae

- Brunoniella australis*
Pseuderanthemum variabile

Apiaceae

- Actinotus helianthi*
Platysace lanceolata (R-5)
P. linearifolia (R-f)
Xanthosia pilosa

Araliaceae

- Astrotricha floccosa*

Asteraceae

- **Ageratina adenophora*
Brachycome prob. *angustifolia*
Helichrysum diosmifolium (R-5)

Bignoniaceae

- Pandorea pandorana* (R-5)

Campanulaceae

- Wahlenbergia gracilis*

Cassythaceae

- Cassytha* sp.

Casuarinaceae

- Casuarina glauca*
C. littoralis
C. torulosa

Cunoniaceae

- Ceratopetalum apetalum*
C. gummiiferum

Droseraceae

- Drosera auriculata*

Dilleniaceae

- Hibbertia obtusifolia*

Elaeocarpaceae

- Elaeocarpus reticulatus*

Epacridaceae

- Dracophyllum secundum*
Epacris longiflora (R-f)
E. pulchella (R-f)

Euphorbiaceae

- Poranthera microphylla*

Fabaceae

- Dillwynia floribunda* (R-f)
Glycine clandestina
Gompholobium latifolium (b)
Hardenbergia violacea
Hovea linearis
Kennedia rubicunda
Mirbelia rubiifolia
Pultenaea flexilis
P. retusa

Goodeniaceae

- Goodenia heterophylla*
G. rotundifolia
Scaevola ramosissima (R-9)

Hypericaceae

- Hypericum japonicum*

Lamiaceae

- Plectranthus graveolens*
P. parviflorus (R-5)

Lobeliaceae

- Pratia purpurascens*

Loganiaceae

- Logania albiflora* (R-9)

Meliaceae

- Synoum glandulosum* (R-9)

Menispermaceae

Sarcopetalum harveyanum

Mimosaceae

*Acacia elata**A. longifolia* var. *longifolia**A. maidenii* (R-9)*A. oxycedrus* (R-d)*A. suaveolens* (R-f)

Moraceae

Ficus rubiginosa

Myrtaceae

*Acmena smithii**Angophora costata**A. floribunda**Backhousia myrtifolia* (R-9)*Callistemon linearifolius* (R-f)*Eucalyptus gummifera**E. piperita* subsp. *piperita**E. punctata**E. resinifera**E. umbra* subsp. *umbra**Kunzea ambigua**Leptospermum attenuatum**Tristania laurina* (5,9)

Oleaceae

Notelaea longifolia

Pittosporaceae

Bursaria spinosa

Proteaceae

*Banksia integrifolia**B. marginata**B. serrata**B. spinulosa* (R)*Grevillea sericea* (R-1 bush at a)*Hakea dactyloides* (R-e)*Persoonia levis**P. linearis**Xylomelum pyriforme* (3 trees at c)

Rhamnaceae

Pomaderris multiflora (R-f)

Rubiaceae

Morinda jasminoides (R-9)

Rutaceae

*Correa reflexa**Phebalium* sp.

Santalaceae

Exocarpos cupressiformis

Solanaceae

Solanum sp.

Sterculiaceae

Lasiopetalum ferrugineum var. *ferrugineum**L. macrophyllum*

Stylidiaceae

Stylidium sp.

Verbenaceae

*Avicennia marina**Clerodendrum tomentosum* (R-9)**Lantana camara* (4 plants on northern side)

Violaceae

Hybanthus monopetalus

Vitaceae

*Cayratia clematidea**Cissus hypoglauca* (R-9)

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Cyperaceae

Baumea juncea
Caustis flexuosa
Gahnia sp.
Lepidosperma laterale
Schoenus imberbis

Iridaceae

Patersonia glabrata

Liliaceae

Caesia vittata
Dianella revoluta
Thysanotus tuberosus

Orchidaceae

Caladenia carnea
Dendrobium linguiforme
Pterostylis nutans
Thelymitra ixioides

Poaceae

Aristida vagans
Cymbopogon refractus
Dichelachne micrantha
Eragrostis philippica
Imperata cylindrica
Sporobolus virginicus
**Stenotaphrum secundatum*
Stipa sp.

Xanthorrhoeaceae

Lomandra confertifolia subsp. *rubiginosa*
L. glauca
L. gracilis
L. longifolia subsp. *longifolia*
L. obliqua
Xanthorrhoea sp.