



# Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch  
PO Box 199  
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 92  
September 2009

## Society Office Bearers

<b>Chairperson</b>	Tony Roberts	40 551 292
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Mary Gandini	40 542 190
<b>Secretary</b>	Ing Toh	40 310 551
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Jago	40 552 266

**Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region-** Renewal \$40.00, New Members \$45, each additional member of household \$2.00 **Student** - \$35.00, **Cairns Branch Fees** -\$10.00 Full Year

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Newsletter Editor: Andrew Picone [andrew.picone@jcu.edu.au](mailto:andrew.picone@jcu.edu.au)

## Dates to remember

**Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursions – third Saturday of each month.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Chillagoe! 19 -20 September See pages two and three for directions, accommodation options and a map of the cave system. The location on these maps is approximate and it is near Mungana Caves and The Archways which you'll find mentioned in the QPWS brochure. However, Carpentaria Caves is not mentioned and requires local knowledge to find. Therefore its important to meet at 9 at the info centre. Please email Ing CC to Tony if you are coming. Bring a torch!

**Tablelands Branch Excursion–** Sunday following the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Any queries please contact Chris Jaminon 4095 2882 or [hjaminon@bigpond.com](mailto:hjaminon@bigpond.com)

## SGAP Cairns Branch Tentative Excursion List

Month	Location	Coordinator	Status
September	Chillagoe	Ing	Confirmed
October	Mt Windsor	Andrew	TBA
November	Yarrabah		

## Chillagoe overnight fieldtrip, 19-20 September.



The plan is to visit the limestone karsts around Carpentaria Caves where, fingers crossed, the *Graptophyllum* will be flowering and we may also run into some *Macropteranthes* trees, rather interesting "African" looking trees. I suggest that we meet at the Chillagoe information centre in the middle of town about 9am on Saturday which will give plenty of time to check out the

Karsts. Bring or buy packed lunches as we will then have lunch in the Carpentaria Caves. Definitely bring torches as the caves are large and extensive and we will be having a bo-peep around. From memory they are rather cool in more ways than one. Lots of bats including the very rare and endangered greater horseshoe bat.

Accommodation Options:

Chillagoe Observatory & Eco Lodge (4094 7155)

1 Hospital Avenue

P O Box 35

Chillagoe QLD 4871

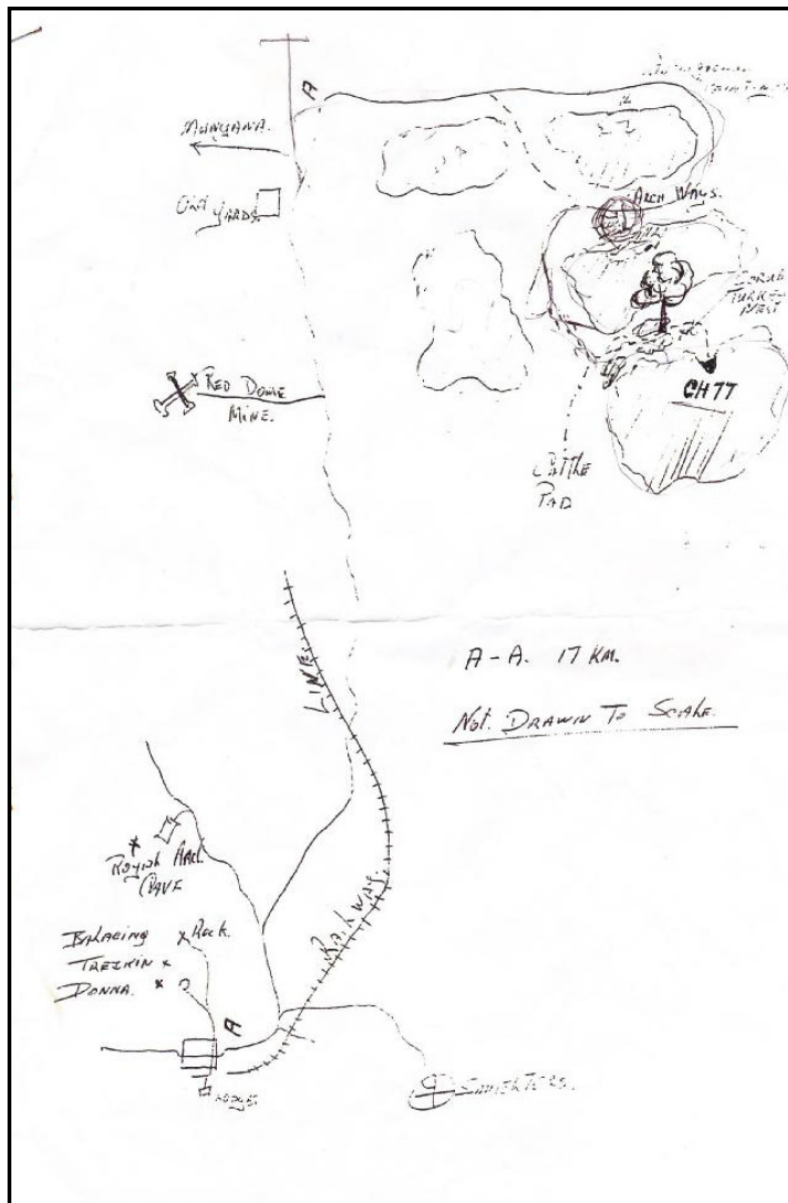
<http://www.coel.com.au>

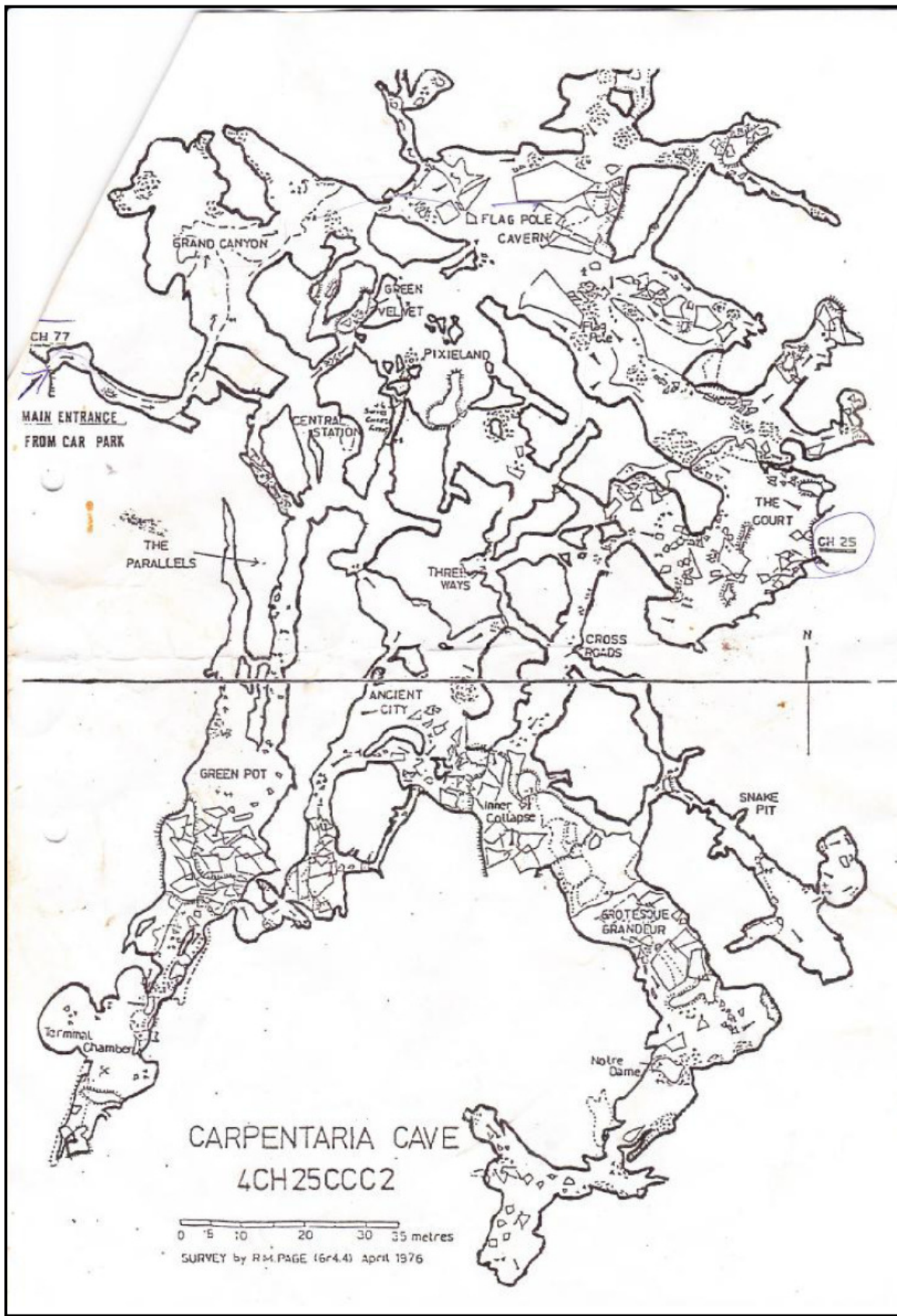
Ensuited double room from \$80 to \$100 per night , budget single from \$30 p/p per night , camping \$10 adult , \$5 child under 12yrs , \$30 max per family . The

Ecolodge also provides an excellent telescope for viewing the stars.

or

Chillagoe Creek Homestead "the Fossil House" run by Mary Bolams (4094 7160) just down the road from the Ecolodge. She has some accomodation in the B&B style and camping sites. She has a very nice local fossil display which is well labelled and educational.





## Fitzroy Island

## Words and Photos by Stuart Worboys

Perfect weather – warm temperatures, pleasant breezes and smooth turquoise oceans – greeted us for our August SGAP outing to Fitzroy Island. Unfortunately, only two could make it this month; Andrew Picone and myself.

The ferry ride over to the island was pleasant, and we happened to run into a mutual friend (Sarah) who was heading over to the newly renovated council camping ground to introduce her nieces and nephew to the island camping experience. At the wharf, we went our separate ways.

The new resort on the island is quite imposing. Although allegedly closed, we noticed people working on the resort, and the bikini-clad girl shaking her towel on the second level balcony (to the accompaniment of loud bogan music) indicated that it was not just the workers in residence. The new resort is in some senses an improvement on the old one – it's better landscaped, tidier and, but it's so much bigger than the old resort. It's still a work in progress, but if it's ever finished and fully occupied, one wonders where the drinking and washing water will be sourced. Not just that, but how well will sewerage be treated if it's not to kill the beautiful reefs a few metres off the beach?

Walking past the resort, we noticed that most of the plants in the new gardens were natives. Not always native to the island, but certainly native to the Cairns area – *Licuala ramsayi*, *Atractocarpus fitzalanii* and *Syzygium australe*. The gardens in the older parts of the resort were full of clichés from another era: *Polyscias* cultivars, *Nephrolepis*, *Codiaeum variegatum* and *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*. Unfortunately, many of these garden plants are also invasive weeds: *Sansevieria trifasciata*, *Mangifera*



View from the summit



The construction site that is the new resort



Astroticha framing a view of the Coral Sea

*indica*, *Catharanthus roseus* and *Syngonium apodophyllum* for instance. Also, just a few metres from the dock, the awful invasive grader grass, *Themeda quadrivalvis* had established itself.

After checking out the resort area, we headed to the newly renovated campground. Not really too much to this – it's been cleaned up, some of the shade trees removed, picnic and barbecue facilities constructed and a shiny new shower/toilet block built. It's been landscaped with *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Cryptocarya laevigata*, *Lea indica*, *Syzygium australe* and *Cleistanthus apodus*. On this perfect weekend, the only campers

were our friends from the boat, so it seems that this stunning campsite, with its perfect beach and rainforest backdrop is still a little-known destination.



Mackinlaya confusa

We wandered up the steep track to the lighthouse. The first half of the track passes through a simple rainforest community, with species typical of coastal rainforest communities – *Cryptocarya cunninghamii*, *Pouteria obovata*, *Alstonia muelleriana* and *Polyscias elegans*. Epiphytes were rare, but included *Drynaria rigidula*, *Bulbophyllum grayae*, and possibly *Dendrobium smiliae* (need to wait for flowers to confirm!!). The rainforest breaks into a woodland of *Corymbia clarksoniana* and *Syncarpia glomulifera*. On the eastern-facing slopes of the island near its peak, the woodland shrinks into a low heath, strangely dominated by *Syncarpia glomulifera*, with *Acacia calyculata*, and the delicate *Lithomyrtus obtusa*. Scattered amongst this windblasted heathland are *Xanthophyllum octandrum*, normally a rainforest tree.



Lithomyrtus obtusa in heathland on the western slopes.

We found our way to the top of the mountain, where we could soak up the beautiful view, watch for whales (no luck), and spot ospreys wheeling on the ocean breezes. A cluster of golden orchids (*Dendrobium discolor*) on the rocks near the peak was in bud, but no flowers were present. Unfortunately, the track down the western side of the mountain, which takes you through the resort area, was closed. We spent the rest of the afternoon with Sarah and co., sleeping on the beach and wondering at the beauty of Fitzroy Island.



A couple of years ago, I spent a little time volunteering at Kasetsart University in Bangkok. I had a great time working in the herbarium and exploring the local area with a bunch of students. Various trees around the university were labelled with their Thai and Latin names, and I was thrilled to see foxtail palms in the grounds, as described by the great palm botanist, A. Kirvine!

- Stuart Worboys

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Family	Species	National Park	Resort Area & Campground
<b>FERNS</b>			
Aspleniaceae	<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	+	c
Lindsaeaceae	<i>Lindsaea ensifolia</i> var. <i>agatii</i>	+	
	<i>Lindsaea media</i>	+	
Nephrolepidaceae	c <i>Nephrolepis</i> sp.		+
Polypodiaceae	<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>	+	
	<i>Platyterium bifurcatum</i>		+
<b>CONIFERS</b>			
Podocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus grayae</i>	+	
<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>			
Acanthaceae	* <i>Hemigraphis</i> sp.		+
	<i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i>	+	
Amaranthaceae	<i>Amaranthus</i> sp.		+
Anacardiaceae	<i>Buchanania obovata</i>	+	
	* <i>Mangifera indica</i>	+	+
Apiaceae	<i>Centella asiatica</i>		+
	<i>Mackinlaya macrosciadea</i>	+	
Apocynaceae	<i>Alstonia muelleriana</i>	+	
	<i>Alyxia spicata</i>	+	
	* <i>Catharanthus roseus</i>		+
	<i>Hoya pottsii</i>	+	
	<i>Tabernaemontana pandacaqui</i>	+	
Araceae	* <i>Alocasia macrorrhiza</i>		+
	c <i>Dieffenbachia</i> sp.		+
	* <i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i> var. <i>aureum</i>		+
	* <i>Monstera</i> sp.		+
	* <i>Syngonium apodophyllum</i>		+
Araliaceae	* <i>Polyscias</i> cv. <i>pinnochii</i>		+
	<i>Polyscias elegans</i>	+	
	<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	+	
Arecaceae	<i>Calamus australis</i>	+	
	c <i>Chrysalidocarpus lutescens</i>		+
	c <i>Licuala ramsayi</i>		+
	<i>Livistona muelleri</i>	+	
	* <i>Neodypsis leptocheilos</i>		+
	<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	+	
Asteraceae	* <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>		+
	* <i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>		+
	<i>Helichrysum rupicola</i>	+	
	* <i>Praxelis clematidea</i>	+	
	* <i>Synedrella nodiflora</i>		+
	* <i>Tridax procumens</i>		+
Bignoniaceae	<i>Deplanchea tetraphylla</i>	+	
Burseraceae	<i>Canarium australianum</i> var. <i>australianum</i>	+	
	<i>Canarium vitiense</i>	+	
Caesalpiniaceae	c <i>Delonix regia</i>		+
Caricaceae	* <i>Carica papaya</i>		+
Casuarinaceae	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	+	
	<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	+	
Clusiaceae	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>	+	

Family	Species	National Park	Resort Area & Campground
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia sericocarpa</i>	+	
Commelinaceae	* <i>Rhoeo sp.</i>		+
Cyperaceae	* <i>Cyperus aromaticus</i>		+
	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	+	
	<i>Lepidosperma sp.</i>	+	
	<i>Scleria sp.</i>	+	
Dilleniaceae	<i>Dillenia alata</i>	+	
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea transversa</i>	+	
Dracaenaceae	c <i>Dracaena fragrans</i>		+
	c <i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>		+
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros sp.</i>	+	
Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Elaeocarpus arnhemicus</i>	+	
Euphorbiaceae	* <i>Acalypha sp.</i>		+
	<i>Claoxylon tenerifolium</i>	+	
	c <i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>		+
	<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i>		+
Fabaceae	* <i>Aeschynomene indica</i>		+
	* <i>Desmodium tortuosum</i>		+
	<i>Desmodium triflorum</i>		+
	* <i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i>		
	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>		+
	<i>Sophora tomentosa</i>		+
Flacourtiaceae	<i>Casearia sp. Mission Beach (BH RFK773)</i>	+	
	<i>Scolopia braunii</i>	+	
Flagellariaceae	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	+	
Goodeniaceae	<i>Goodenia sp.</i>	+	
	<i>Scaevola taccada</i>	+	
Haloragaceae	<i>Gonocarpus acanthocarpus</i>	+	
Lamiaceae	<i>Clerodendrum longiflorum var. glabrum</i>	+	
	* <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	+	
Lauraceae	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	+	
	<i>Cryptocarya cunninghamii</i>	+	
	<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	+	
	c <i>Cryptocarya laevigata</i>		+
	<i>Cryptocarya vulgaris</i>	+	
	<i>Endiandra hypotephra</i>	+	
	<i>Litsea breviumbellata</i>	+	
	<i>Neolitsea brassii</i>	+	
Laxmanniaceae	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	+	
	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	+	
Lecythidiaceae	c <i>Barringtonia acutangula</i>		+
	<i>Barringtonia calyptrata</i>		+
Loranthaceae	<i>Mistletoe</i>	+	
Malvaceae	c <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	+	+
	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>		+
	* <i>Sida acuta</i>		+
Meliaceae	<i>Dysoxylum sp.</i>	+	
	<i>Xylocarpus granatum</i>		+
Menispermaceae	<i>Stephania japonica</i>	+	
Mimosaceae	<i>Acacia calyculata</i>	+	
	<i>Acacia flavescens</i>	+	

Family	Species	National Park	Resort Area & Campground
	* <i>Mimosa pudica</i>		+
Moraceae	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	+	+
Myrtaceae	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i>	+	
	<i>Lithomyrtus obtusa</i>	+	
	<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	+	
	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	+	
	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	+	
	<i>Ptilidostigma tropicum</i>	+	
	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	+	
	c <i>Syzygium australe</i>		+
	<i>Thryptomene oligandra</i>	+	
Oleaceae	<i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i>	+	
	<i>Jasminum aemulum</i>		+
Orchidaceae	<i>Bulbophyllum grayae</i>	+	
	<i>Dendrobium discolor</i>	+	
	<i>Thelymitra sp.</i>	+	
Passifloraceae	* <i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	+	
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Breynia stipitata</i>	+	
	c <i>Cleistanthus apodus</i>		+
	<i>Glochidion harveyanum</i>	+	
	* <i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>		+
Piperaceae	<i>Piper caninum</i>	+	
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum venulosum</i>	+	
Poaceae	* <i>Axonopus compressus</i>	+	
	* <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>		+
	<i>Eragrostis sp.</i>	+	
	<i>Oplismenus sp.</i>		+
	* <i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>		+
	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	+	
Polygalaceae	* <i>Polygala paniculata</i>	+	+
Proteaceae	<i>Darlingia darlingiana</i>	+	
	<i>Persoonia falcata</i>	+	
Rhamnaceae	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	+	
	<i>Colubrina asiatica</i>	+	
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	+	
Rubiaceae	c <i>Atractocarpus fitzalanii</i>		+
	<i>Guettarda speciosa</i>		+
	c <i>Ixora sp.</i>		+
	<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>		+
	<i>Neonauclea glabra</i>	+	
	<i>Tarenna dallachiana</i>	+	
	<i>Timonius timon</i>	+	
Rutaceae	<i>Euodia elleryana</i>	+	
	c <i>Euodia rubra</i>		+
	<i>Euodia xanthoxyloides</i>	+	
Sapindaceae	c <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>		+
	<i>Cupaniopsis foveolata</i>	+	
	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	+	
	<i>Guioa acutifolia</i>	+	
Sapotaceae	<i>Pouteria chartacea</i>	+	
	<i>Pouteria obovata</i>	+	



<b>Family</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>National Park</b>	<b>Resort Area &amp; Campground</b>
	<i>Pouteria sericea</i>	+	
	<i>Pouteria xerocarpa</i>	+	
Smilacaceae	<i>Smilax australis</i>		+
Sterculiaceae	<i>Astrotricha sp.</i>	+	
Tiliaceae	* <i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i>		+
Ulmaceae	<i>Celtis australiensis</i>	+	
	<i>Trema tomentosa</i>	+	
Verbernaceae	* <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	+	+
Vitaceae	c <i>Leea indica</i>		+
Xanthophyllaceae	<i>Xanthophyllum octandrum</i>	+	
Zingiberaceae	* <i>Alpinia zerumbet</i>		+

c = cultivated

+ = present