

EDITORIAL WANDERINGS

CYATHODES COLENSOI

Allen gives the flowering period of Cyathodes colensoi as December and January. On a visit to Jolies Pass and Jacks Pass on the 24th and 25th May, 1975 this species was seen flowering in great abundance. Other plants noticed in flower were: Cassinia vauvillersii, Senecio bellidioides, Senecio lautus, Wahlenbergia albomarginata, Celmisia du-rietzii, Celmisia laricifolio, Meuhlenbeckia axillaris, Gaultheria rupestris, Pernettya alpina, Dracophyllum Sp. Euphrasia zelandica.

IPHIGENIA NOVAE-ZELANDIAE

What a delightful flower Iphigenia novae-zelandiae bears. On a trip to the Bankside reserve on 13th November, 1974 numerous plants of Iphigenia were noticed with their dainty white flowers partly hidden in the grass. Also in the reserve were a number of Pterostylis mutica with flower heads that had withered before they had fully grown. The cause of this withering was not apparent. It was interesting to find plants of this species with similar withered flowers on Mt. Herbert a few days afterwards.

OPHIOGLOSSUM CORIACEUM

One more note on Ophioglossum coriaceum, this time concerning the largest find of all. On the 23rd April, 1975 we travelled to the end of the Ellesmere Spit road and walked further on for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour until we approached two largish hollows. In these hollows were hundreds and hundreds of Ophioglossum, some with fertile fronds just peeping through the soil. The fertile fronds of others were fully developed whilst some had dropped their spores.

PTERISTYLIS GRAMINEA

An unusual finding was a plant of Pteristylis graminea var. graminea with twin flower heads. This was seen on the edge of the Okuti reserve on 28th October, 1974. Both flowers were normal in shape and appeared little if any smaller in size from the adjacent single headed plants.

CYATHODES JUNIPERINA

Autumn is a good time to visit the Eyrewell reserve. On the 26th April, 1975 we greatly enjoyed the brave show of berries provided by the many Cyathodes juniperina plants. The colour of the berries range from white, through various shades of pink, to a very dark red.

CHILOGLOTTIS CORNUTA

We did not mean to visit the Bottle Lake Plantation at New Brighton on the 23rd October, 1974 but somehow we found ourselves there. What a pleasant surprise it was to find growing under the trees three patches of the orchid Chiloglottis cornuta with one of them in flower. They appeared to be finding the growing conditions satisfactory. Let us hope that they spread.

MENTHA CUNNINGHAMII

Mentha cunninghamii could be a more abundant plant on the Port Hills than would appear from the comparatively few findings by us. It was seen a few years ago on the Lyttelton reserve but not on recent visits. Other findings have been under a rock on the track from Halswell Quarries to the Summit Road, in a ditch on the Summit Road near Coppers Knob and last year in a damp grassy area in Victoria Park. The latest finding was on the 1st February, 1975 in full flower in the upper portion of the Ahuriri bush.

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A FURTHER NOTE ON BAUMEA RUBIGINOSA - A SPECIES RARE IN CANTERBURY

R. Mason

On the cover of the Society's journal for 1973 (No. 6) there is an illustration of the sedge Baumea rubiginosa and on page 1a a note mentions that it was rare in Canterbury, but that it had recently been found at Mt. Grey. In fact there seem to be only four definite records for Canterbury and all are fairly recent. Neither of the Armstrongs found it in Canterbury, nor did Laing find it on Bank's Peninsula. There is nothing to show that Kirk found it when he was stationed at Lincoln College at a time when there was much swampy land between there and the Lake Ellesmere, conditions one would think very favourable for Baumea rubiginosa.

The first known collection for Canterbury is one I made in the upper Waiiau Valley in a wet patch by the roadside between Gabriel's Gully and Camp Stream in 1962 on 31st January. The second is that of Dr. Moore from a swampy neglected corner of a paddock at the Carter's Road and English Road near Greenpark on 29th October, 1962. The third I made on 24th November, 1967 near the coast about half a mile south west of Wakanui Beach (Grid. ref. S103 315959). The latest is that of Mr. John Thompson at Journey's End, Mount Grey on 23rd May, 1973. Mr. Thompson mentions that farming operations would very likely soon destroy the patch at Mount Grey and that near Greenpark has already been so destroyed. Baumea rubiginosa was probably

always rare in Canterbury, and doubtless has become rarer since settlement. It is worth collecting and recording wherever it is seen in Canterbury, or indeed anywhere in the South Island.

Although rushlike in form it can readily be distinguished from the rushes even in the vegetative state by the overlapping papery scales covering the rhizomes. In flower or fruit, of course, there is no difficulty. The typical sedge flowers are so entirely different from the regular shaped rush flowers and the hard orange nut from the capsules full of small seeds of the rushes.

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### ORCHIDS OF BANKS PENINSULA

M.J.A. Simpson

The orchids of Banks Peninsula have been listed by several authors since J.F. Armstrong (1870) included 6 species in his account of the "Vegetation of the neighbourhood of Christchurch". J.B. Armstrong (1880) listed 16 species, R.M. Laing (1914) 12, L. Cockayne (1915) 5, A. Wall (1953) 9 and C.J. Burrows (1969) 8. J. Thompson (1971) mentioned three species of Pterostylis not included in earlier lists. These records are tabulated here together with information about recent collections by G.C. & D. Kelly, the late R.H. Simpson of Nelson and members of the Canterbury Botanical Society (J. Thompson, Y. Elder, E. Shaw, C.J. Burrows and M.J.A. Simpson). Some recent collections re-establish early records and others are new for the peninsula.

Not all early records were substantiated by herbarium specimens and I have not located any orchid specimens collected by Laing from Banks Peninsula in the Canterbury Museum (CM), University of Canterbury (CANU) or Botany Division (CHR) herbaria. Species listed by various authors but not represented in these three herbaria are Acianthus reniformis, Bulbophyllum pygmaeum, Corybas oblongus, C. rivularis, Dendrobium cunninghamii, Lyperanthus antarcticus, Pterostylis australis, Pt. banksii, and Thelymitra venosa. There are specimens of Corybas macranthus collected by J.B. Armstrong and by von Haast and although neither Microtis nor Prasophyllum have been recently collected, both have been recorded and are known to be common in grassland areas on Banks Peninsula. What is now recognised as Pt. areolata might previously have been recorded as either Pt. banksii or Pt. australis and Thelymitra hatchii could have been mistaken for the blue flowered Th. venosa (Th. uniflora of J.B. Armstrong). Some of the others may well still be present and are worth watching for. Reports of Pt. foliata are few in the South Island and recent records of Pt. alobula extends the known distribution in the South Island from c. lat. 41°50' to c. 43°50'.

There are therefore eighteen species of orchids plus one variety known from Banks Peninsula from recent collections or records with two more, Corybas macranthus and Spiranthes sinensis supported by older specimens. Twenty-one different orchids is a greater number than has ever been recorded from the area before. A question is - are some new arrivals on the peninsula?

References

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- Cockayne, L. 1915: Botanical Notes on Kennedy's Bush and Scenic Reserves on Port Hills, Lyttelton. Extract from Report on Scenery Preservation for the year ended 31st March, 1915. Government Printer, Wellington.
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ORCHID SPECIES RECORDED FROM BANKS PENINSULA 1870-1975

- a as Cyrtostylis oblonga
- b as Dendrobium pygmaeum
- c Corysanthes rotundifolia recorded  
by J.B.A.
- d as Caladenia minor
- e as Thelymitra uniflora
- f as Corysanthes
- g as S. australis

	C.H.A.	C.B.A.	R.M.L.	I.C.	A.W.	C.D.B.	Recent Voucher specimen and collectors	Habitat/Locality
<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>		a					-	
<i>Bulbophyllum pygmaeum</i>	+b						-	
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	+d		d				CHR 212430, Y.E.	Sunny clay banks, Kaituna V.
<i>Caladenia lyallii</i>	+		+				CHR 224537, M.J.A.S.	Leptospermum scrub around beech forest.
<i>Chiloglottis cornuta</i>	+						CHR 224536, M.J.A.S.	Beech forest.
<i>Corybas macranthus</i>	f	f	f		f	+	etc.	
<i>Corybas oblongus</i>	+f	+c	+		+		-	
<i>Corybas orbiculatus</i>	+						-	
<i>Corybas rivularis</i>	f	f	f	f	f	+	CHR 258682, G.C.K.	Mt. Herbert.
<i>Corybas trilobus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	CHR 225931, M.J.A.S.	Common in forest.
<i>Dendrobium cunninghamii</i>							-	
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	CANU 1319, C.J.B.	Common on higher rocks.
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	+	+	?	+	+	+	CANU 1318, C.J.B.	Castle Rock, Stony Bay.
<i>Gastrodia cunninghamii</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	CHR 183442, M.J.A.S.	Podocarp forest, Montgomery Bush.
<i>Lyperanthus antarcticus</i>	+						-	
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>			+	+	+		-	Common.
<i>Prasophyllum colensoi</i>	+		+		+		-	Common at higher levels.
<i>Pterostylis alobula</i>							CHR 268990, R.H.S.	Akaroa.
<i>Pterostylis areolata</i>							CHR 221756, D.K.	Light scrub, podocarp, forest and grassland.
<i>Pterostylis australis</i>							-	
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>			+	+	+	+	-	
<i>Pterostylis foliata</i>			+	+	+	+	CHR 208210, J.T.	Grassy spur, Kaituna V.
<i>Pterostylis graminea</i>			+	+	+	+	CHR 226329 E.S.	Grassland, forest.
<i>Pterostylis graminea</i> var. <i>rubricaulis</i>			+				CHR 208208, M.J.A.S.	Podocarp forest,
<i>Pterostylis montana</i>							CHR 274157, J.T.	Montgomery Bush and grassland.
<i>Pterostylis mutica</i>							CHR 221885, D.K.	Grassy spur, Kaituna V.
<i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>	+g				+		-	Dry clearing + on rock Armstrongs Reserve.
<i>Thelymitra hatchii</i>							-	
<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>	+		+	+	+	+	CHR 168159, G.C.K.	Stony Bay Rd., beyond mountain beech.
<i>Thelymitra verosa</i>	+e						CHR 225928, M.J.A.S.	Common on open ground and among rocks.

J.F.A. - J.F. Armstrong; J.B.A. - J.B. Armstrong; R.M.L. - R.M. Laing;  
L.C. - L. Cockayne; A.W. - A. Wall; C.J.B. - C.J. Burrows.  
Recent collectors are named in text.

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FRONTICEPIECE

John Thompson

The fronticepiece, provided by Mr. Cecil Dunn is that of Carex inopinata, a carex which is found naturally in the limestone country of the Castle Hill Basin. This was reported on in Journal No. 6 1973.

After the experiments mentioned in that article were completed the plants were placed in a somewhat shady position of the garden and have since been given little attention.

Each plant has spread moderately, growth is very dense. Leaves are up to 31 cm long compared with 10 cm mentioned in the Flora. Culms reach up to 26 cm, c.w. Flora 1 cm, whilst inflorescences of 4 pedunculate spikes are common, one noted had 5 spikes, as against 3 in the Flora.

The male spike is terminal with sometimes a female spike close below. The other spikes are female, on one plant a male spike surmounted a female, and are placed near the base of the culm.

The peduncles range from 5 mm to 6 cm in length. The details of the glumes and utricles agree with the description in the Flora.

The mature culms were gathered early in December as against the end of March in the field.

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BLUE-FLOWERED PARAHEBE LINIFOLIA

by Hans Petersen

On the Wellington Botanical Society's summer trip, 19-25 January, 1972, we found Parahebe linifolia on the way up towards Mt. Owen, probably between 4-5000 feet, some growing on a little heap of stones, others a few yards from there on a nearly vertical rock wall. Flowers were in shades from pale blue, blue, to purple blue. Another patch was about a mile from there in the Granity Pass, also in blue shades.