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The Te Kaha plants showed no signs of opossum damage, unlike most of those now seen in the Waitakeres. Whether these Te Kaha plants have large leaves because of particularly good growth conditions or because they are genetically different from the normal form could best be determined by controlled growth experiments. H.H. Allan ( Flora of N.Z., 1961 ) suggests that there are two varieties of Aristotelia serrata, one with light green and the other dark green leaves, but he does not mention any forms with large leaves.

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THE RAIN OF POHUTUKAWA SEED

SANDRA ASTRIDGE

Anyone with pohutukawa trees growing nearby will have noticed the vast quantities of seed shed by these trees. A short study of the fruit and seeds of a pohutukawa tree brought these interesting facts to light.

The flowers are arranged in groups of 3 with up to 8 groups in an inflorescence ie. up to 24 capsules per inflorescence. A count of a number of capsules showed that the average number of seeds in each capsule was 1346! The total number of seeds produced by one tree in a season would be almost beyond comprehension.

Further studies of the seeds produced one reason why there are not thousands of seedlings around pohutukawa trees. The seeds could be visually divided into 3 types - a) tiny, thin seeds, b) long, thin seeds and c) larger, plump seeds. The proportions of these 3 seed types in a capsule were a) 64% b) 32% c) 3%. However, germination tests showed only the plump seeds were viable ie. only 3% of all the seeds were capable of growing.

It would be interesting to see if this pattern of vast seed production but low viability was found in other similar trees. I expect it would be.

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FOR SALE

1 Pair of Boots, Size 7. \$5-00. Miss N.K. Abbott, Flat 2,  
1 Seaview Terrace, Mt. Albert, 3.  
Ph. 867-801.

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I must admit that until Miss Abbott asked me to put this advertisement in the Newsletter I hadn't ever thought of having a For Sale or Exchange section as a regular feature. The more I think about it the more the idea appeals. Possible things could be tramping gear, books, plant material required or for exchange and so on. If anyone is interested please write and let me know. - Editor.