

two rare plants just a few hundred yards apart, found within a single year. I am looking forward to more finds, and will continue looking with my eyes down, hoping always for my own splendid discovery.

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RAOULIAS ON MT. HUTT

M.J.A. Simpson

There are at least seven species of Raoulia on Mt. Hutt, in the ski basin or in the near vicinity of the upper part of the access road. I looked at seed development on a selection of plants on April 13th 1977.

Small cushions of R. mammillaris grow among rocks at c. 2000 m. An early snowfall on Easter Monday had covered the basin and a sharp wind on the 13th April made conditions icy. The hummocks of R. mammillaris were barely discernable but trapped air beneath the ice had kept the ripe seeds perfectly dry.

The attractive, white-flowered R. youngii also grows at this altitude, but on this date plants were quite hidden beneath the snow. Some plants of R. grandiflora had ripe seeds.

The vegetable Sheep R. eximia has a wide altitudinal range on Mt. Hutt but although many plants were studded with developing seed heads, none were fully ripe.

Large, flattened mats of R. hectori, (at its northern limit here?) at the top of the first ski tow had ripe seeds as did R. sub-sericea in grassland at lower levels.

On a small exposed saddle near the lower limit of R. eximia was a large patch of the common scabweed, R. australis, bright with yellow flowers. It seemed somewhat incongruous here, growing between a group of vegetable sheep and a scree supporting another alpine aristocrat, Ranunculus chordorhizos.

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