

Myosotis pygmaea var. drucei

A closely related variety Myosotis pygmaea var. drucei was found by A. Wall on Mt. Herbert at 2800 feet altitude on April 1921? C.H.R. 295301.

I shall be pleased to receive information on the whereabouts of this species from anyone who has seen it or knows where it has been found on Banks Peninsula fairly recently.

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A "NEW" ORCHID FOR NEW ZEALAND

By L.B. Moore

In the September 1976 number of the New Zealand Journal of Botany Mr. Digby Graham reported a truly amazing botanical find -- an Australian orchid more than a metre tall, with flowers 2.3 cm long in shades of "purple-black, red-plum to maroon", dozens of plants growing wild and never before recorded in New Zealand; This tongue orchid, Cryptostylis subulata, was discovered in a swamp in the far northern strip of New Zealand near the road that carries thousands of sight-seers every year to the Cape Reinga light house.

Most fortunately I was in that district in the Spring of 1976 and was able to see these orchids as leafy plants 15-20 cm tall in a swamp where, ankle-deep in water, we walked along narrow lanes between shoulder-high rush-like sedges (Baumea teretifolia, B. juncea and Schoenus brevifolius) with an understory of the jointed rush (Empodisma minus, formerly Hypolaena), umbrella fern (Gleichenia), Lycopodium laterale, and a dainty Blechnum (B. minus s.s.). The pink-flowered spiral orchid, Spiranthes sinensis, was almost as common as the tongue orchid, not unlike it in leaf-shape but only about half its size. A plant of each orchid was brought back to grow at Botany Division, DSIR, Lincoln (where they retain their leaves in winter), and also of our other find, a "living fossil", which was on display at the Society's September meeting before it died down for its summer rest.

My guides on this wonderful day in the swamp were Mrs. J. Seymour and her children, all enthusiastic and knowledgeable right down to the smallest one. Later Mrs. Seymour wrote for us something about her reactions on first moving into this area of sand, scrub and swamp, and her subsequent botanical adventures.

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