

which dominates the area at the back of the house. There is an article on this tree in NZ Gardener April 1974. No. 47 has the original Cheeseman house on it - a quite lovely looking place. I met the owner and she confirmed the house is "over a hundred years old". There are 3 very tall Washingtonia palms on this section.

It has been said Cheeseman introduced many exotic trees. There is record of a North American black walnut (Juglans regia) 60-70 ft high when J. Lovell-Smith had 49 Benson Road in 1971 and a tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera) at 41 Benson Road reputedly 90 ft tall. Both these trees must have been felled in the last 10-15 years.

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MIMULUS REPENS

R.O. Gardner

This uncommon salt-marsh herb has been found on the Waitemata shores for the first time, discovered by Mike Larcombe of Bioresearches Ltd in January '87 during his investigation of what is now the chosen route for the Huntly-Marsden Point gas pipeline.

It grows by the Northwestern Motorway at Traherne Island, not in a refuge kind of habitat but in a brackish muddy depression among open Juncus maritimus, Cotula coronopifolia, Samolus repens and motorway jetsam. Plants are healthiest at the drain's lower (blocked) end, where fresh run-off gathers; their total cover is a square metre or so.

Mike Larcombe saw many flowers but there seem to be no other colonies in any of the equally unsavoury wet places along the motorway embankment here. We might guess then that it will not be possible to reconstruct the habitat once the pipeline is laid.

M. repens would seem to be a genuinely rare plant at least in northern New Zealand. Kirk found it at Onehunga; there is one collection in AK from the south side of the Manukau Harbour (Joan Dingley Karaka Point, Waiuku) and one of mine from Miranda.

Kirk observed the scrobiculate (finely-pitted) nature of the leaves, a character omitted from Allan's "Flora I" description apparently by accident.

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