

of Australia. On 6 June 1867 MacGillivray suffered a heart attack from which he died, though an asthmatic condition probably contributed to his fatal seizure.

Following MacGillivray's dismissal the "Herald" made three more years of surveying, taking in Norfolk Island, Fiji again, and Western Australia, and returning to Sydney in the second half of 1858. There Denham found a letter from Hooker, instructing him to dismiss Milne, the culmination of growing disquiet of Milne's output as a botanical collector.

The facts were set out in a memorandum to Hooker from his assistant Smith, who wrote that in the five and a half years that Milne had been in the "Herald" only six consignments of plants had been received at Kew. There seems little doubt from Milne's journal and the references to him in Denham's letters that Milne was extremely enthusiastic, but he apparently neglected the more routine tasks, so that a great deal of what he did gather was wasted.

Whatever Milne's faults may have been, Denham seems to have had sufficient regard for him to treat him as generously as possible. He persuaded Milne to write a face-saving letter of resignation, and a passage back to England was arranged. Milne took with him six cases of plants (three of them living material, and one case containing odds and ends of natural history for Mrs Denham). Earlier Denham had told Hooker that he was sending to the Admiralty a collection of natural history items he had mostly collected himself, but which included some of Milne's duplicates, which had been made into a book.

Milne reported to Hooker at Kew but what transpired is not known. He was re-employed by the Edinburgh Royal Botanical Garden and in 1863 was sent to the west coast of Africa as a plant collector. He still felt resentment over his dismissal, writing in a letter to James McNab, Edinburgh's Head Gardener:

"the Hookers accuse me of Drunkenness I deny the charge I never was in the habit of taking spirits when on the field of duty. Like the rest of my shipmates I used spirits freely to[o] freely in harbour, but never at sea."

Like so many Europeans before him on this coast Milne's constitution broke down and he died at Old Calabar on 3 May 1866.

Where, then, are the plant specimens obtained in the Hauraki Gulf? Hooker's "Handbook of the New Zealand Flora" cites only collections from the Kermadec Islands, so unless they are still in storage at the British Museum it has to be supposed that somehow they have been lost.

Reference

David, A. 1994. *The Voyage of HMS "Herald" to Australia and the South-west Pacific 1852-1861 under the command of Captain Henry Mangles Denham*. The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne. 521 pp.

Note added in proof

For a fuller account of the life of John MacGillivray see Ralph (*Archo Nat. Hist.* 20:185-195; 1993).

Information on the *Ileostylus* Intersection

Maureen Young

For two generations motorists driving past the Mahurangi West turnoff, 3 km north of Puhoi, may have puzzled over the pronunciation of the Bohemian name SCHEDEWY (Shed-away) written boldly on the sides of trucks at the depot opposite the intersection. In the 1950s Frank Hudson was told by H. R. (Ross) McKenzie, ornithologist and competent botanist, that mistletoe grew on totara "up the

creek", and being busy with other matters at the time, never got around to looking for it. In the 12 years that I have been associated with Frank, I'm ashamed to say that I never looked for it either. Having seen the rapid decline of the mistletoe (*Ileostylus micranthus*) on the Onekura Track at Puketi Forest due to possum browsing, we were both convinced that any mistletoe growing "up the creek at Schedewys" would long since have disappeared.

Last year (1995) I overheard an acquaintance explaining how, when he was a young fellow, he and his friends often picked some mistletoe from Schedewys to hang over the doorways at dance halls, so that they would have the time-honoured excuse to kiss the girls. On being questioned about exactly where it grew, he seemed to recall that it was on the big old oak trees growing by the roadside.

The oak trees at this time were in the winter guise, and although they bear an abundance of epiphytes, it was easy to ascertain that they bore no mistletoe plants. But on the totara trees (*Podocarpus totara*) under the oaks, we were thrilled to find a good population of *I. micranthus* showing no sign of possum damage.

Although *I. micranthus* is the commonest of the New Zealand mistletoes it has never been common in the Auckland region, and is now only known from three other locations in this area.

On 20 th April 1996 a party of ABS members split up into 5 groups to survey the trees on the Schedewy farm in an attempt to estimate the number of plants and the size of the area where they grow. On both sides of State Highway 1 and both sides of Pukapuka Road, over an area of c. 10 ha, at least 300 mistletoe plants were seen on 56 trees. Quite a number of trees bore only one plant, but the number in other trees varied to an estimated maximum of 50-60 plants in two trees. All were growing on totara, except for one on a hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), and one which had previously been seen on a Japanese spindle tree (*Euonymus japonicus*) (P. J. de Lange *pers. comm.*). The absolute boundaries of the population may not have been found, as one plant was seen c. 1 km upstream from the main area, but it is unlikely that there are many mistletoes not charted in the survey. Road alignment may pose a threat to the site, but conservation organisations are keeping a solicitous eye on it.

ABS Field Trip to Telecom (Satellite Station) Bush Reserve, Warkworth, Saturday 20 April 1996

Marjorie Newhook

Following our counting of the *Ileostylis micranthus* at Mahurangi, the afternoon was spent being led by Maureen Young and Frank Hudson in the Telecom Bush reserve beside the Satellite Station near Warkworth. The bushline is situated on the ridge south of the Satellite Station, and the forest, strongly regenerating in podocarps, kauri and many varieties of hardwood, occupies both sides of a fairly steep valley.

The area is especially rich in a wide variety of ferns. Of particular interest were two New Zealand endemic *Grammitis* species, *G. ciliata* and, the find of the day, the "Rare" *G. rawlingsii* in abundance along the entire length of a fallen log. Six species of *Hymenophyllum* included *H. sanguinolentum* and immature fronds of *Schizaea bifida* and *S. dichotoma* were fairly common.

The winter greenhood orchids were making their appearance, *Pterostylis brumalis* was in bud, with some fully developed flowers, and the rosettes of *P. trullifolia* were seen. Also found were *Acianthus sinclairii* in bud, leaves of *Corybas oblongus* and epiphytes including *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum* and *Drymoanthus adversus*.