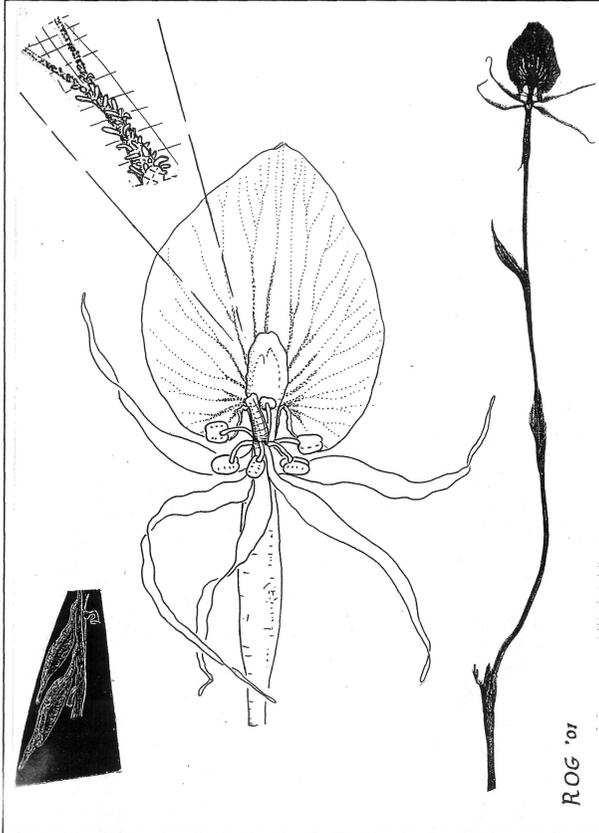


## Pixies in someone else's garden: a *Corsia* illustrated

Rhys Gardner

*Corsia merimantaensis* P.Royen (Corsiaceae)

This beautiful little saprophyte was found in beech forest at c. 2200 m in the Schrader Range, Papua New Guinea. Like similar plants in the Burmanniaceae, Triuridaceae and Orchidaceae, corsias spend much of the year just as under-ground rhizomatous growths, and flower mostly in the wetter seasons.



The resemblance of corsias to orchids is through convergence, a fundamental difference being that in the former group it is the rear sepal that is modified into a labellum - in orchids it is the rear petal.

Illustrated (Fig. 1) the above-ground part of the plant (ROG 10016) with its 3 scale leaves and single wine-coloured 3-merous flower, the most conspicuous feature of this being the upright slightly hooded labellum, which has a central basal callus from which diverge papillose-ornamented nerves (upper left). The fruit of this plant is, as in orchids, a 3-valved capsule, and contains numerous spindle-shaped seeds pendent on long funicles (lower left). Labellum is 1 cm wide; seeds incl. funicle are 2.5 mm long.

**Fig. 1**  
*Corsia merimantaensis*  
P.Royen (Corsiaceae).

## Lucy Cranwell Track, and others, Piha

Sarah Flynn

19 May 2001 field trip led by Sandra Jones.

Despite a fairly damp, dark and ominous-looking morning, a sizeable crowd of thirty Bot-Soccers assembled at the entrance to Kauri Grove track on the side of the road to Piha. This walk descends through one of the western catchments of the Waitakere Ranges. According to Denyer *et al.* (1993), this is the only catchment in the Waitakere

District containing a continuous sequence of mature vegetation from coastal, through to alluvial flat, rugged hill country and high relief, and includes the only alluvial vegetation in the central Waitakere Ranges that has not been lost through the development of water reservoirs. Very briefly, vegetation comprises a variety of forest types,