

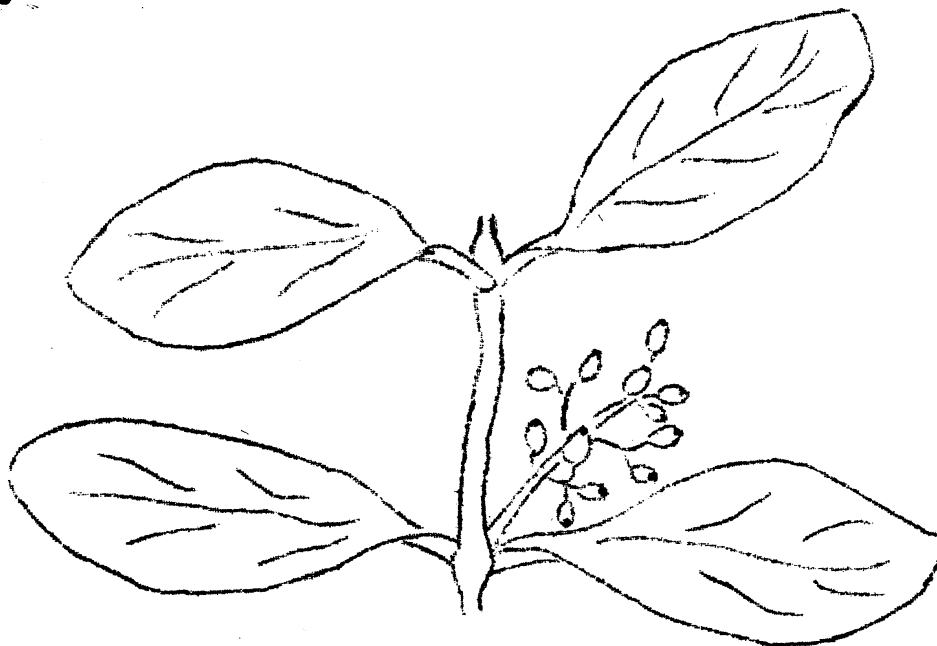
Species	State	Commercial	Total	Per Cent
Pinus radiata (insignis)	176,000	279,000	455,000	60.2
Pinus ponderosa Western yellow pine	73,000	19,000	92,000	12.2
Pinus laricio Corsican Pine	57,000	-	57,000	7.5
Pseudotsuga taxifolia Douglas fir	43,600	1,200	44,800	6.0
Pinus murrayana Lodgepole pine	17,000	-	17,000	2.3
Larix decidua	7,800	-	7,800	1.0
Pinus muricata	5,000	-	5,000	.6
Thuja plicata	4,700	-	4,700	.6
Cupressus lawsoniana	4,600	-	4,600	.6
Sequoia sempervirens	4,500	-	4,500	.6
Miscellaneous and mixtures	52,800	11,053	63,853	8.4
	<u>446,000</u>	<u>310,253</u>	<u>756,253</u>	<u>100.0</u>

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Miss B. Menzies of the Auckland University College is at present carrying our research work in the Botanical Department on Loranthus micranthus, one of our native mistletoes. This plant, true to the traditions of its rapacious family, obtains its nourishment by sheer shameless robbery. Instead of growing roots and obtaining its own food from the soil, it settles upon a tree, penetrates its living tissues, and serenely helps itself to its host's food. But like some other villains, Loranthus is not without interest, and Miss Menzies is particularly anxious to find out the details of its privateering. In order to discover the exact means by which it penetrates the tissues of the host plant, she would like young plants at different stages of development. She has been able to secure a number of adults, but so far has been unable to find young ones. It is here that the Botanical Society may help! Loranthus micranthus, belongs to a large tropical genus of 350 species or more. It is rarely found in temperate regions, and we in New Zealand have only one species which is endemic. It is a perfectly smooth, bushy shrub, from 2 - 5 feet high. The leaves are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3" long, thick and leathery, oblongish, rounded at the tip. They have stalks about $\frac{1}{3}$ " long and grow exactly opposite each other on

the stem. The flowers are minute, greenish, and appear in October and November. The berry is bright yellow, oblong and about $\frac{1}{3}$ " long.

LORANTHUS MICRANTHUS



It has been found growing on Coprosma, Melicope, Leptospermum, Near Auckland it chooses large totara trees - usually one growing apart from the bush. It has been found at Huia and Parau in the vicinity of Auckland. Miss Menzies has forwarded a line drawing that should assist members in identifying the plant. It is hoped that if any one discovers a specimen, they will be careful, when removing it, to cut away sufficient of the host plant to enable the parasite's method of attachment to be adequately studied.

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Mr. Aldridge, Superintendent of Parks and gardens, is now retiring after many years faithful service. The Society takes this opportunity of wishing him a long and happy retirement!