small portion of the group N. solandri x N. truncata.

Cockayne and Atkinson figure about 126 different types of Nothofagus leaf, most of these being from hybrids.

Truly a varied genus!

N. truncata flowers from Oct. - December.

In the vicinity of Auckland, it has been reported from Birkdale, Chelsea Reserve, Hunua and Titirangi.

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to Miss Pat Thomas on her marriage to Mr. Neville Henderson, lecturer in Zoology at the Auckland University College. Members will rejoice that on her wedding day, Miss Thomas received news that she had gained her M. Sc. with First Class Honours in Zoology.

Congratulations to Miss Ruth De Berg, Demonstrator in Botany at the Auckland University College, who has gained her M.Sc. with First Class Honours in Botany.

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CORRECTION

In the last number of the News Letter it was stated that the paper "Ovule anatomy and development in Phyllocladus alpinus and P. glaucus" was by Dr. J. Holloway. Actually it was by his son J.T. Holloway.

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BOTANICAL REVISIONS IV

Maire or N.Z. Sandalwood (Fusanus cunninghamii) may be known to members, as it is common in Kauri forests and light bush about

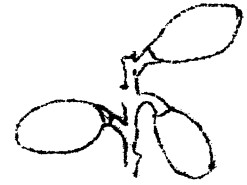
Auckland.

In 1927 T.A. Sprague and V.S. Summerhayes (Kew Bulletin 1927, p.197) published an account of their researches into several genera of the family Santalaceae, with the result that the N.Z. Sandalwood which differs slightly from the true Fusanus has been removed from this genus and now reverts back to the name that Allan Cunningham gave in 1838. It may now be called MIDA SALICIFOLIA (A.Cunn.) Benth.

Maire is a small tree with glossy dark green leaves, usually alternate, and very variable in shape. Cheeseman (Illustrations N.Z. Flora) gives this description: " . . . Small tree 10-25 ft. in height with a trunk which seldom exceeds 9" in diameter. It is remarkable for the great variation of the shape of its leaves, which vary from linear to oblong ovate. Leaves of very different shapes can often be found on the same branches, but it is also common for the leaves to be fairly constant. Young plants show the greatest tendency to variation, and usually have narrower leaves than older individuals."

Then not in flower or fruit Mida is often confused with species of Olea (also called Maire), but in this genus the leaves are opposite, not so shiny, and of thicker texture. The fruit is an oblong to ovoid drupe, typical of the olive family to which Olea belongs.

Mida



Drupe of Olea

WANTED! SEEDS!

Mr. L.H. Millener, Botany Department, Auckland University College, would be very glad to receive seeds of any native forest species. Seeds are required of as many different ages as possible. No seed could be too old. Some members might find old seeds if they looked through their collections of dried or pressed plants. Even a few seeds would be gratefully received, but the best number would be at least 100.

One of the many problems of forest generation is to discover the properties of the seeds of the competing species - their longevity, resistance to fire and other influences, and so on. It is to make a beginning on this problem that seeds of all kinds are wanted.

In Europe surprising discoveries concerning the longevity of seeds have been recently made. Several kinds of seeds from the Napoleonic herbaria have been successfully germinated; and from German shales at least 400 years old viable seeds have been unearthed.

No real work of this kind has been done in New Zealand: but seeds of Whau (Entènea arborescans) which ripened when Darwin was alive, have been germinated. Mr. Millener would be particularly grateful for old seeds of this species.

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