

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

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AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

On Wednesday June 7th at 8 o'clock Prof. John H. Davis of the University of Florida, and for this academic year visiting Professor of Botany at Auckland University College, lectured to the members on "Botanical Differences and Similarities of New Zealand and Florida". He gave examples of subtropical plants of Florida and New Zealand to emphasize the larger number of this kind in Florida where more definitely subtropical conditions exist. New Zealand, he showed, has a much wider range of plants from many floristic realms than in Florida, due, he stressed, to the great variations due to mild lowland and cold montane climates of these islands - Other differences were pointed out.

The lecture was illustrated with Ansco color slides, which type of film lends itself to very sensitive rendition of the true colours, particularly the shades of green. Professor Davis plans to be with us until December and he says he "hopes to see most of New Zealand which has some of the most unusual types of vegetation and flora in the world." His chief purpose will be plant ecology and he plans research to study the kauri and other forest types.

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On Saturday, July 15th, an excursion was held to Rangitoto Island. Owing to the inclement weather the attendance was small. The party disembarked from the launch at Rangitoto wharf and proceeded up the summit track to the fireplace and then followed the track around the cone to the Islington Bay Rd. joining the boat in the afternoon at Islington Bay.

The party noted the lack of undergrowth in the tall tea tree around the cone and as the track approached the road fresh deer foot prints were seen. Early flower heads of Senecio kirkii were seen among the bush on the summit track while even in the most unpromising bare larval crannies masses of Pterostylis trullifolia were in bloom. Acianthus sinclairii was also in flower but not in the profusion of the Pterostylis. Near