

A number of our members have "gone rambling" this summer and three of them have been kind enough to share their experiences with other members via the News Letter. Mrs. P. Hynes and Mrs. K. Wood forward an account of their trip in the far south, in the vicinity of Milford Sound.

### BOTANICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LOWER HOLLYFORD TRIP.

Christmas. 1950-51.

"If you must choose between your lives and the safety of the specimens, remember the specimens come first!" With these stirring words from the Museum Botanist ringing in our ears we set off for the wilds of the Lower Hollyford Valley determined to bring back something to show for our trip. We soon found that we had a large area over which to tramp, little time to spare, and at first, all our energies were concentrated on getting from one place to another. This slightly dampened our ardour, but later, one or two rest days provided opportunities for looking about and collecting specimens.

The commonest fern in the valley appeared to be Poly-stichum vestitum and all the bunks in the various huts where we stayed were padded with this fern. Blechnums were also plentiful, chiefly B. minor, B. fluviatile, B. penna-marina, B. lanceolata, B. discolour, B. Patersoni, and a specimen of B. Banksii was collected near the coast at Big Bay. Ophioglossum coriaceum was fairly common on the open grassy flats near the huts. Filmy ferns were everywhere and specimens of Mecodium flexuosum and M. pulcherrimum were collected. Other ferns collected were Asplenium obtusatum, Leptolepia novae-zelandiae, Hypolepis millefolium and one other unidentified Hypolepis. Prince of Wales feather ferns, Leptopteris superba were most plentiful all along the tracks and it was difficult to avoid walking on them at times. One puzzling specimen of a fern collected, appears to be a very freak form of Grammitis Billardieri with deep indentations in its fronds.

The forest was predominantly Nothofagus Sp. and many beautiful bunches of scarlet mistletoe, Elytranthe tetrapetala were to be seen parasitic on the branches of the trees. Scarlet rata, Metrosideros lucida also added a bright touch of colour and specimens of M. hypericifolia with its pale pink

flowers were collected near Big Bay. Large heads of flowers on the Hohera glabrata looked like masses of cherry blossoms. Specimens were collected of two Olearias, the holly-leaved O. ilicifolia and O. avicenniaefolia and Wintera colorata with its reddish leaves was noted everywhere.

Two species of Carmichaelia were collected and near Lake McKerrow grew beautiful weeping kowhais, Sophora microphylla, many species of Coprosmas, two Myrtus, M. obcordata and M. pedunculata, and masses of flowering epiphytic orchids, Dendrobium Cunninghamii and Earina mucronata.

The open river flats were carpeted with Pratia angulata, Viola Cunninghamii, Cotula squalida, Helichrysum bellidioides, Potentilla anserina, Lagenophora Sp., and many other small but beautiful flowering herbs. A few ground orchids were noted, mainly Caladenia bifolia and Pterostylis Banksii. On the forest floor were to be found specimens of Enargia parviflora with its lovely creamy flowers, the dwarf iris, Libertia pulchella and the giant tree moss Dendroligotrichum dendroides. Of the sedges three specimens of Uncina were collected, five Carices, one Schoenus, S. pauciflora, and one Juncus.

- K. Wood and P. Hynes.

(The Genus Hypolepis presents frequent difficulty as regards identification. According to Carse the different species hybridized freely, consequently there are forms that cannot readily be referred to any one species. It is a pity our sharp-eyed friends had so little time to spend in this interesting vicinity. Ed.)

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From the other end of New Zealand comes an account by Mr. Jessop of a recent trip to the Waipoua Kauri Forest. Though the senior member of our Society, Mr. Jessop continues to roam the countryside with unabated enthusiasm. In forwarding his notes, Mr. Jessop says nothing about the Kauri themselves, as he feels they have already been so fully discussed, "Only those growths," he remarks, "which strike the stranger have been mentioned."