

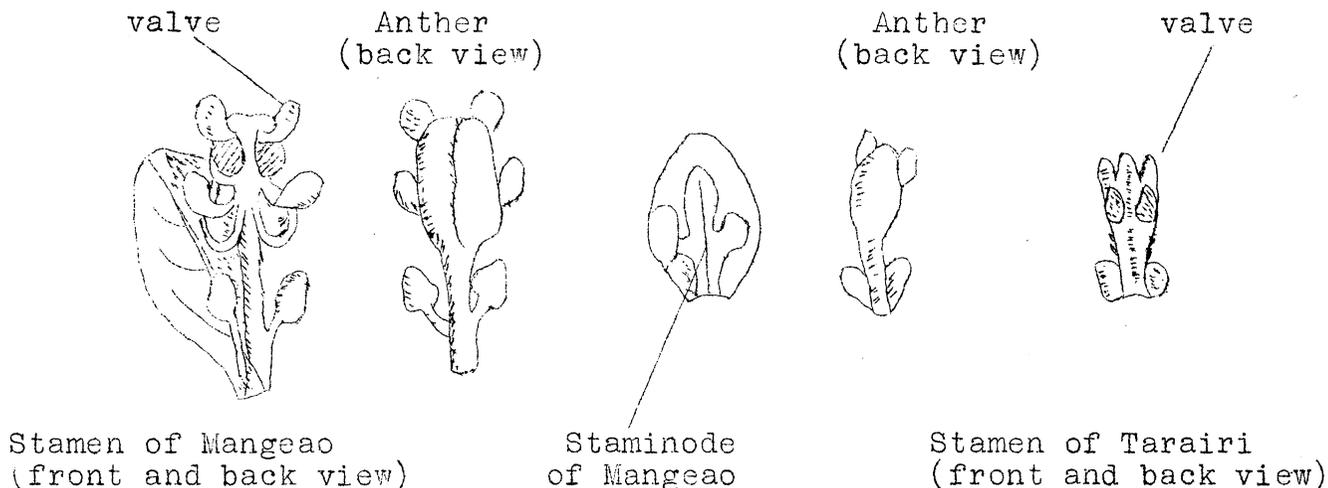
AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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On Saturday, September, the nineteenth, the Society visited Walker's Bush, Mountain Rd., Henderson. During the morning a trip was taken to the big Kauri, and during the afternoon members climbed the hill walking through the beautiful area given to the city by Mr. Goodfellow. Here we found much to our taste. Past the ranger's house, and along the kauri spur, we found near the track a large clump of the giant moss Dawsonia superba, and obtained fertile specimens. Near the end of the spur the native daphne (Pimelia longifolia) was abundant but not in flower. Close to the ranger's house were some fine specimens of cultivated "natives" in which Mr. Pilcher, the present ranger, takes a keen interest. We noted the toa toa (Phyllocladus glaucus) described by Cheeseman as "quite the most handsome of the New Zealand Taxads", the mountain toa toa (Phyllocladus alpinus) and a most richly coloured specimen of the tanekaha (Phyllocladus trichomanoides). Mairehau (Phebalium nudum) was in flower. Several species of beech and a variety of attractive Hebes were also noted. Coprosma kirkii was scrambling over a wall and Angelica rosaefolia was at its bright green best by the steps. Along the drive to the road we saw fine examples of the wheki-ponga (Dicksonia fibrosa). This attractive tree fern does so well round Auckland that it is surprising that it has so far only been recorded once on the ranges, when a small clump was found near Mackay's Rest.

Among trees that were in flower mention should be made of mangeao (Litsea calicaris) which played such an interesting part in the Cheeseman Show. Mangeao, together with the tawa (Beilschmiedia tawa) and the tarairi (B. tarairi) which we also found plentifully along the road, constitute New Zealand's three tree members of the Laurel family (Lauraceae). The flowers of mangeao well repay examination on account of the peculiarity of their stamens. Like other members of the laurel family, the anthers (pollen-cases) of the stamens open to release their pollen, not by splitting as most anthers do, but by a series of little lids or valves, as shown in the diagram. Mangeao has the male and female flowers on separate trees, and in the female flowers the stamens are reduced to staminodes, which are functionless and without valves. In tawa and tarairi the flowers are hemaphrodite, but the anthers of their stamens have only two valves instead of four.



Transport was arranged by the members, and lunch and afternoon tea were had at Miss Crookes' place opposite Walker's Bush. The weather was more than kind to us, and enabled us to make the most of a varied and fruitful day.

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About Shows

The sixteenth Cheeseman Flower Show is now over and the Botanical Society once more breathes freely. This year the accent was on the practical, and use as well as beauty of New Zealand plants was emphasised. Dr. Newhook set up a fine exhibit showing the economic importance of New Zealand Flax, its Maori associations, etc. Mr. Given's bay illustrated Maori food plants, while the Auckland University College, by means of a fine series of specimens, photographs and products dealt with the Economic Uses of Seaweeds. Professor Briggs display on The Chemistry of New Zealand plants, with its intriguing test tubes and crystals, its complex chemical formulas, and its witty and instructive labels, attracted much attention. On the horticultural side, Miss Baker and Miss De Berg revealed the decorative possibilities of native plants in a series of beautifully arranged bowls and vases, while Mr. Jollie showed a collection of plants important in garden design.

The interests of the horticulturist were further cared for in a number of other displays. Miss Dingley's charmingly designed rockery showed many intriguing native plants for the Rock Garden, while Mrs. Mays admirable model of Rangitoto flanked by fine collections of living specimens showed what could develop on that unique volcanic island. Mr. Farnell exhibited a beautiful collection of shelter and specimen trees and the magnificent plant of Xeronema in full flower attracted much attention. The Auckland Natural History Club showed how sea side cottages could have lovely surroundings in their instructive Charmingly arranged collection of Plants for the Sea-side Bach, while the Forest and Bird Protection Society showed another aspect of cultivation in their intriguing display Food for the Birds. An exhibit that claimed much attention was the beautiful violin made by Mr. R. Beatson mainly out of mangeao wood. This instrument roused the enthusiasm of the distinguished concert violinist, Mr. Alan Loveday. Miss Aitken, by her display of Early Botanical Books,