

flowers. "Near my home was a most lovely spot, beautiful in spring with masses of wild primroses. I revisited the place after some years in London and could scarcely find a plant. I went home raging, demanding who had taken them? I was told 'Oh no one in particular, just one person and another kept taking them, they said there were plenty!'"

We have no primroses near Auckland, but we have rare orchids, such as Pterostylis barbata, or ferns such as Loxom cunninghamii or Doodia caudata and in regard to all botanical rarities of any species we have a responsibility concerning which, if I may quote another pungent proverb, "Example is better than precept". It is, I think, of great importance that a society such as ours should set a very high standard where all matters of plant protection are concerned.

In this connection I might mention a rather sad experience that befell me a few months ago. Visiting a very beautiful spot of considerable botanical interest, and thinking of it in terms of a future botanical excursion, I learned that botanists were not allowed on the property as they were liable to damage the bush. Actually I do not think our own Society was guilty in this matter as I do not imagine the owners are at all familiar with the various groups in Auckland that might be interested in nature study - for all I know the trouble might have been caused by some group of private individuals who had visited the area to "study the bush". But whoever was at fault it is not surprising that the property owners are not enthusiastic about people who "study" plants by doing them damage nor that this delightful area is now strictly private.

I have spoken of this matter at some length because I consider it a vital one, and I put these considerations before members believing that their sympathy and co-operation is assured.

Editor.

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Our untiring friend, Mrs. Hynes, has very kindly forwarded an account of a very exciting Easter trip to the Kaimanawas. By all accounts the going was very strenuous and it is good to have reliable reports from these difficult places.

#### KAIMANAWAS

Easter, 1959

This year the Wellington Botanical Society's Easter trip was into the Kaimanawa Range on the eastern side of the Volcanic Plateau, and I gladly accepted the opportunity to join them.

Linking up with the party at Taihape early on Good Friday morning I continued with them to the Desert Road. Here we alighted

and a long, well-laden cavalcade set off along the track which leads through the tussock to the Waipahiki River, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 miles. The track ends with a steep drop to the river where base camp was made. Here in the tea tree scrub some of the children found magnificent specimens of Botrychium australa, the Parsley fern, Corokia cotoneaster was also found, a very scarce plant in that locality.

I was interested to see Schizeilema colensoi, a small herb only an inch or so high, literally covering the ground under the beech trees. This belongs to the Umbelliferae family and its dainty carrot-like flowering heads will lead to its identity. Two other species of this genus were found: S. nitens on the river flats and an un-named species at the bush limit on Patutu. Generally speaking I find that members of our Society are inclined to overlook the small herbs when out on trips, especially if the flowers are not showy whereas an appreciation of them would add spice to the day's adventure.

Later in the afternoon a good number shouldered packs once again to travel up the river. The exceptional heavy rainfall early in the year had washed away much of the grassy flats but still many a wee plant was found to halt our steps.

After many crossings we camped for the night. This advance camp enabled us to take our time next morning in the climb up Patutu, 5,600 ft., one of the highest points in the Kaimanawas. The alpine meadow was reached at mid-day and the final camp made just above the bush line at c. 4,600 ft. The afternoon was spent in botanising up to the summit, unfortunately mountain mist swirled all around us and it was considered inadvisable to go further on as had been planned.

It seems that the plants of the Kaimanawas are akin to those of the Ruahines so it was not surprising to find several plants there which are missing from the Tongariro National Park area, such as Senecio lagopus, Phyllacne colensoi, one of the cushion plants, Myosotis australis, several Epilobiums etc. Also Leucogenes leontopodium, the North Island edelweiss, is more at home on the slates of Patutu, in fact is the dominant plant in places, whereas it is found only in one small spot on Mt. Hauhangatahi in Tongariro National Park.

Late afternoon saw us all back at base camp when the weather really deteriorated and the trek out to the Desert Road next morning was taken under unpleasant conditions. However, in spite of a somewhat damp ending, to me the trip had been a rich experience. Mr. A.P. Druce was the leader and no words could do justice to his abilities as camp organiser and botanical adviser.

P. Hynes.

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(I was greatly interested to read Mrs. Hynes' account of Schizeilema colensoi. This rare plant has not been recorded since Colenso found it over a hundred years ago on crags on Titikura, Hawkes Bay - it must have been a surprise to find it covering the ground in quantity. The parsley family is well represented in