

New Zealand (14 genera and about 78 spp) particularly in alpine and sub-alpine regions, varying from the great spaniards (species of *Aciphylla*) to little herbs like *Schizeilema*. *Schizeilema* is derived from the Greek *schizein*, to split or cleave and *eiluma*, cover clothing, seemingly an allusion to the 3-5 fid involucre covering the umbel in *S. trifoliatum*. The genus includes 13 species, 10 of which are endemic, the other three extending to Victoria, Patagonia and the Falkland Islands. *S. nitens* has not been reported from the North Island. We look forward to hearing from Mrs. Hynes the identity of the third species collected. For those interested there is an excellent drawing of *S. haastii*, figured under the name *Azorella Haastii* in Cheeseman's Illustrations to the New Flora, (Vol. I, plate 59). Ed.) (Records according to Cheeseman).

We are indebted to one of our junior members, David Given of Nelson, for the following record of *Gastrodia cunninghamii*.

AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF GASTRODIA CUNNINGHAMII HOOKER

While camping on the banks of the Anatoki River near Takaka in the Nelson district during January 1959, I noticed a number of *Gastrodia cunninghamii* plants growing under what were to me, unusual conditions.

The plants were growing in alluvial soil on the river bank close to the trunks of willows. The nearest native forest area was some miles distant and the only tree other than willows in the vicinity was a solitary plum. It is quite certain that if, as is supposed, *Gastrodia* is an obligatory root parasite, then the willows must have been the host plants for this community.

A total of 80 flower spikes was counted along less than a chain of river bank but it is likely that the total population in the area was considerably greater than this.

It would be interesting to know of other records of this orchid associated with exotic trees and in such unusually large numbers.

D.R. Given.

(I hope any members having relevant information will forward it. *G. cunninghamii* is the commonest of our *Gastrodias*, of which we have three species. It can scarcely be described as beautiful. It is leafless and the many flowers of its long peduncle are brownish-white. It stores its ill-gotten gains in a large starchy tuberous root, at one time eaten by the Maoris, hence the name "Maori potato". Ed.)