

Ipomoea palmata Forsk. Mr. Warren was intrigued to find this beautiful native member of the convolvulus family growing on an island in Port Fitzroy Harbour, Great Barrier Island. Cheeseman gives as its southern record "sea cliffs of Tiri Tiri Island" from whence it was recorded by Hansen. Allan, however, presumably was not satisfied about this record as he gives the distribution as extending to "about lat. 35° - 30'". Mr. Warren's record then is most interesting. It would be very useful if the opportunity arose for some member to re-investigate the sea cliffs at Tiri Tiri and any other available island in the Gulf. I. palmata is found to be not uncommon on the Kermadecs and is an abundant tropical plant in both hemispheres.

Two species of Nertera are well-known to many of our Auckland members, N. dichondraefolia and N. cunninghamii. The former is the commoner and its leaf blade is always more or less hairy. The bright succulent drupes of both species always attract attention. The species Mrs. Hynes discusses is unusual in the genus in that its fruit, when mature, is not succulent but hard and dry. We thank Mrs. Hynes for her interesting little note and Katie Wood for her attractive drawings. There seems no particular reason why this odd little plant should not be found about Auckland so we hope members will keep their eyes open.



Fruit



Female



Male

Nertera setulosa X2

Passing hurriedly through some pine plantations at Waipoua my attention was drawn to a plant carpeting the forest floor. It was the sole occupant, for no other plant shared its habitat. The stems were creeping

rooting at the nodes, the leaves in pairs about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, broadly ovate with stiff white hairs on both surfaces and the margins fringed with hairs.

Since I could not give it a name I gathered a piece to grow. This survived and in the following months grew into a compact patch. In early October it flowered and was then easily recognised as a Nertera. Belonging to the family Rubiaceae it is a cousin of the Coprosma and the flowers are similar except that those of the Coprosma are unisexual whilst those of the Nertera are hermaphrodite. I found that the exceptionally long tubular corolla and the far exerted styles and anthers bright yellow with pollen were very eye-catching.

The plant is Nertera setulosa and this differs from the other species which have fleshy drupes by having a dry, hairy capsule when mature.

This plant is evidently not uncommon throughout New Zealand but may be local in distribution. It is probably quite common in North Auckland for on a very recent visit I found that it was abundant in dry situations at Waipoua and at the Forestry Headquarters near the Nursery Block it is the main component of a well kept lawn. I again saw it on Puketutu, Kaitaia and recently another member found it near the coast at Waiuku.

P. Hynes.

The Waitakere Ranges and Their Forest Parks
by A.D. Mead and J.A. McPherson.
Cover design by Katie Wood.
Price 3/-

Three members of the Botanical Society have combined in the preparation of this little brochure. A succinct account is given of the parks and reserves of the Waitakeres and Mr. Mead has supplied four pages of maps giving details of routes and tracks. Katie Wood adds charm to the publication by her cover design. No one given to roaming on the Waitakeres should miss this useful guide.

Our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. T. Wood now on holiday overseas. We hope they have a satisfying trip and look forward to seeing them again at the end of the year.
