

Many of us have been interested in the distribution of the variety of Blechnum capense known as the Green Bay form. This differs from the common type in that its pinnae are not narrowed down at the base. It has been found at several places on the cliffs of the Manukau Harbour and at Bethels Beach. A few years ago I found plants at Kauri Point near Katikati, and Mr. Warren reported that locally gathered specimens were brought in to the New Plymouth native flower show last year. (See Bot.Soc.News Letter November 1963 - p4. two localities on the coast near Hawera.) About last October I was showing Miss Crookes round our section at Huia when she discovered a self sown plant growing from beneath the tank stand !

Now I can add some further records to this, for while in Gisborne during the holidays we drove 30 miles inland to Rere Falls, and there I found it again. Later, nearer Gisborne, we visited a small bush reserve called Waihirere Domain and there, growing all along a little stream, were fine large specimens of Blechnum capense, all of the Green Bay form. We travelled from Gisborne to Te Araroa on the East Cape and there found that the Awatere River had been newly bridged. This allowed us to cross by car and drive a few miles along the road towards the East Cape lighthouse. Several times we stopped, and every plant of B. capense that I examined beside the road was of the Green Bay Form. Which shows that this form is much more widely distributed than we realised. Perhaps it extends to the South Island and further reports would be of interest.

It is with regret that I learn of the recent death of Mr. M.C.Gudex of Hamilton. A country member of many years standing, his enthusiasm and versatility never ceased to amaze me. I only met him once, but we corresponded regularly for over eleven years and became firm friends on paper. A retired schoolteacher, he was not only a member of our Society; but of Forest and Bird, the Institute of Horticulture and the Royal Society of N. Z. An amateur botanist, geologist, horticulturist and photographer, his favourite activity was initiating young people into the wonders and beauties of nature. As a teacher he had few equals. He published fifteen papers in Transactions, mainly on forest remnants in the Waikato, and was an interesting speaker, giving many lectures to groups, such as ours, keen on mountain, mire and forest and all that lived therein. A man who himself lived life to the full and encouraged others to do the same. E. D. H.

MIDA SALICIFOLIA - - - F. M. Warren

During the past two years I have had several trips to areas north of Auckland. On almost every trip I have found Mida salicifolia, but on practically every occasion it has been the large leaved form - var myrtifolia. The only narrow-lanceolate leaved specimens I have observed have been -

- (1) mere saplings
- (2) trees with broken trunks making new growth
- (3) trees of fair size bearing the large leaves of the variety, and a few narrow-lanceolate leaves which are no doubt only juvenile foliage.

I have more or less come to the conclusion, from observations so far made, that var myrtifolia is the only one found north of Auckland. Would members kindly keep watch for Mida salicifolia and its variety, and report to me or to the Editor, details of any mature tree bearing narrow-lanceolate leaves only.

EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

This issue of the Newsletter is to some extent an experiment. It grew, like Topsy, all by itself. The various articles tumbled out of the typewriter one by one as they were received, the only theme being one of chronology. Constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement will be welcome.

I am extremely grateful to those members who wrote up the trips and provided the odd notes, and I hope that the variety of style and viewpoint will prove stimulating. The only problem I struck was one of nomenclature. The state of taxonomic flux in which the monocotyledones find themselves, will not be resolved until the remainder of the new Flora is published. In the meantime some sort of uniformity is essential. I propose to follow where possible -

- (1) Allans 1961 Flora of N.Z.
- (2) Warrens 1962 Jubilee List
- (3) Allans 1940 Naturalised Flora of N.Z.

falling back on Cheeseman only when the foregoing fail.

E. D. H.