

The City Council Parks Dept. put on a display of native species used in public planting, while Mr. Otto and the Horticultural Council arranged some very decorative sets and added a section on native plants useful in horticulture.

Our Taranaki friends sent up some interesting alpine plants from Mt. Egmont and Mr. Farnell added his generous quota from Middlemore. Miss Crookes was there with her ferns, and Mrs. Hynes and Mrs. Wood with their extensive knowledge. Finally Whitcombe and Tombs loaned us a selection of botanical books, several of which I still haven't been able to afford. E.D.H.

FLOWERING TIME OF TAWAPOU - - - K. Wood

A specimen of tawapou, Planchonella novo-zelandica, in flower was obtained by Mr. A.D. Head from Karekare and this was on display at our autumn flower show in March. No flowering time is given in Allans Flora, but a specimen I gathered from Matapouri Bay in Northland on 26 December 1954 was in flower at that time, so this appears to extend the season from December to March. The flowers are very small and insignificant but the berry which follows about June, is large and shining, and ranges in colour from yellow through orange to purple. The Maoris strung them into necklaces.

Another name for the tree is Orewa, and according to Florence Keen in O te Raki, there is a legend that it was brought here by the first Maoris to arrive in the north. Brought as skids for the canoes, they were stuck in the ground and grew first at Otengi Bay.

THE SUMMER FLOWERING FORM OF EARINA MUCRONATA

Mr. Lediard has in cultivation an Earina which has over a number of years, flowered consistently between December and March. It has short, relatively robust stems and a dark orange labellum, and is probably the E. aestivalis of Cheeseman. This plant crops up from time to time and always raises the question of the validity of Cheeseman's species, which I included in E. mucronata in Trans. R.S.N.Z. 78: pl02. 1950. I am still of the opinion that this summer flowering form is an epharmonic variation of the common spring flowering plant and that the two forms are but parts of a single species. The 'forma aestivalis' has shorter thicker stems and broader leaves, The flowers are fewer and correspondingly larger, with a darker coloured labellum, sometimes almost red. The growth habit, and stem and leaf structure, and the form of the flowers, are identical in both forms. E.D.H.