

WHICH IS WHICH?

Members have often asked me how one distinguishes Adiantum cunninghamii Hook, from A. fulvum Razole.

Here are some spotting points.

A. cunninghamii

Rachis and midribs with brown hairs

Tips of pinnae rounded

Undersurface of pinnae blue-green

Sorus Sori numerous - up to 14 each pinnule.

A. fulvum

Rachis and midribs without such hairs.

Pinnae broader with tips pointed. N.B. in older fronds they tend to be more rounded.

Undersurface of pinnae green. Small black hairs present.

Sorus Sori fewer - usually about 6, slightly larger.

While these distinctions are good as far as they go, it must be remembered that intermediates occur, and that some of these at any rate are probably hybrids.

Members have also asked me how one distinguishes our fine maidenhair, Adiantum aethiopicum Linn. from the English Maidenhair (found actually in many places in the Old World) A. capillus-veneris Linn. Look for the position of the sorus! In A. aethiopicum it is found on the notch between the lobes of the pinnule, while in A. capillus-veneris it is found on the edge of the pinnule lobe. If you have difficulty in remembering which fern the position applies to, remember E. for edge and E. for England, and N. for notch and N. for New Zealand!

M. Crookes.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Our members have more than once visited "Grasmere", Waerenga and enjoyed Mr Cozen's beautiful garden, and also visited the area where his labours have transformed bare ground into a beautiful dell of native trees, ferns and shrubs. Mr Cozen has now disposed of "Grasmere" and has come to live on the Scenic Drive. We have much pleasure in welcoming him to Auckland.

Miss Joan Dingley is at present overseas. She will be visiting Kew, the Continent and various places in North America, in connection with her work on the classification of certain groups of fungi.

Dr L.R. Millener is at present in England. He will be continuing his earlier researches on gorse, and also revising and working on previous researches.

N.B. I would like to see this item extended, so please mention any news of members you may have to the Editor. Book reviews (botanical) are also wanted.