

## ORIGINAL FIELD NOTES

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The need to ensure that field notes made by competent amateur botanists over their years of botanising are preserved for posterity, cannot be stressed too highly. It was therefore very pleasing to learn that Mr Frank Holman of Whangarei is having copies of his manuscript on the Northland flora made. It is to be hoped that funds will be available one day to publish his work, and so make it available to a wider public. The existence of so many fine colour photographs of our native flora would be a valuable adjunct to such a text. There is still a big gap in regional New Zealand botany to go with such books as Davies' "New Zealand Native Plant Studies," and the recent "Plants of the Southern Alps" by Philipson and Hearn.

Recently I tried to search out some of the early botanical work done in the Coromandel Range, but have so far been unable to locate many of the records which must have been kept by the resident and visiting botanists. Many invaluable records have been lost without trace where their value has not been recognised.

It is difficult today to better some of the more intensive field work of the pioneer botanists. With our fast means of travel we tend to overlook so much of that which was seen in former days through the hard trekking necessary to get anywhere, lacking roads. Much of the good bush has of course gone, or is much altered through the ravages of man and noxious animals. The spread north of the opossum is causing much damage to the forest canopy, but it is hoped we will be able to stem the spread of deer. The recording of the changes resulting from the animal build-up is particularly important.

In the next issue I hope to discuss the matter of Botanical Recorders for the province, after discussion by the Committee, and would welcome any offers to do this work, especially from our country members.

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## NEW FIELDS

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### The Need to explore New Areas.

There has been a tendency for the Society of late to return to the well known spots, largely I think due to a lack of offers from members to lead excursions to areas not previously visited by the Society, and there must be many such spots in the Auckland area. There is however always something to be gained from re-visiting known areas if only to observe any changes, and perhaps discover some new plant.

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