

## NEW PLANT RECORDS.

The finding of Loxoma cunninghamii is always of more than passing interest. Recently I found it growing on a shaded vertical bank of a stream high up in the hills above Cook's Beach, Whitianga, looking out over Mercury Bay to the Aldermans where live the tuataras. In a recently cleared area it was growing amongst masses of seedling Gleichenia flabellata. There was also some two-tiered mature umbrella fern in large groups

K.B.

The colony of Loxoma by the stream in Riverhead State Forest was seen recently to be reduced to a very small patch, following logging. I did however see several tufts along the Billygoat Track recently at the head of the Kauaeranga River, also in the Coromandels.

J.H.

The re-discovery of that rare orchid Corybas carsei, by Bill Butcher of Hamilton on the Moanatuatua Bog in 1962 was a most welcome one. On October 1st. I had the pleasure of being taken to see the plants, along with Miss Bates and other Hamilton botanists. It was thought flowers would not be seen, but having been shown the original plants a search in the vicinity produced several flowers of this little orchid, which was at its best - and required almost a hands and knees search to spot.

Having seen the community in which it occurred, we decided the following day to visit Carse's original locality in the Restiad peat bogs of the Waikato at Motumaho Bog, near Tauhei (west of Morrinsville), and there sure enough we found it, also in flower.

Both communities in which Corybas carsei was found were very similar at both bogs. Carse was at Tauhei in 1923, and again in 1925, when, on finding Lycopodium serpentinum (which was an associate of the orchid at the old Kaitaia Bog), he searched for and found the remains of the Corybas flowers, later confirmed as C. carsei, which had been named in his honour earlier.

On informing Mr. Hatch, he tells me a Victoria student collected plants near Tauhei a couple of years ago, and later flowered them in the glasshouse.

Several species are early and regular colonisers following fires on the bogs, when the dominant Restiads (Sporodanthus and Hypolaena) are burnt right back. Corybas carsei is one of these (though in small elusive patches), along with the creeping Lycopodium serpentinum, and the upright L. laterale. Two sundews occur, Drosera spathulata commonly, and earlier in the succession the large leaved D. binata. One other orchid (Thelymitra venosa) occurs fairly commonly.

I will not enter into any more detail here on the Restiad bogs, as we hope to have Mr. Butcher give us a lecture on these unique communities later, and then visit one of these bogs, which will be new (if somewhat shaky!) ground to most of our members. The peat incidentally makes an ideal medium for the growing of many garden plants.

J.H.

There must be many more records which members could record here, so as not to lose them. It is amazing how hard some of you find it to put pen to paper. Do so now before you forget! The address is at the head of the Newsletter.