

here. The first, Calochilus paludosus with a red bearded labellum and short anther flowers in early December and the other, C. robertsonii with a bluish-tinted bearded labellum and longer beak-like anther, flowers a month earlier.

Rainbow Mountain is best known to the passing motorist as a hill with many-hued rocks, but to the botanist who penetrates beyond the thick scrub there are many other features of interest including the discovery that the pink tinge of the rocks is caused by the alga Trentepohlia.

Many of the described associations of native plants are threatened by the spread of pines, and, as for those on Mt. Tarawera, there is a very good case for their removal.

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PINK AND WHITE CENTAURY ----- J. T. Linzey

At Karekare in March, Miss Crookes showed me how far centaury, Centaureium minus, had penetrated into the shade of the dense manuka scrub and the light coastal forest. The leaves were reduced in size and the stems, lengthened and weakened by the lack of light, were often nearly prostrate. The characteristic pink flower, however, left no doubt of the plant's identity.

As the only introduced member of the gentian family found wild in New Zealand, centaury is abundant in open grassland throughout the country. In his "Weeds of New Zealand" Hilgendorf mentioned a white flowered variety near Masterton. This form occurs quite commonly around Dunedin and in parts of Central Otago. It is often found in association with our native Gentiana grisebachii, also white flowered. One is tempted to speculate that an environmental factor which has favoured our native white flowered gentians is preferentially selecting the white centaury. Has any member seen the white flowered form in Auckland?

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Articles such as the two above recording members own botanical observations and experiences greatly increase the interest of the Newsletter. They are, however, always in short supply! If any member sees something interesting botanically speaking in their travels, I would be more than grateful if they could jot down some notes about it and send them to me, (address on the front page), for inclusion in the "Newsletter". - A.D.P.