

Now the route was almost direct to Auckland, apart from a call at Tiri-tiri to drop off a sheep-dog.

A most interesting and satisfying sixteen days, from which I returned very fit after the stiff climbs and plenty of boulder-hopping when exploring the coast-line and various creek-beds.

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MURIWAI LAKE

----- Mrs. P. Hynes.

Listed below are three plants which have been recently recorded from Muriwai Lake, South Kaipara.

On the 1968 November outing to this lake I found a wee sedgy plant which was quite new to me. A further visit was made a few weeks later in the company of Mr. V.J. Cook. The rainfall during the intervening period had been rather heavy so that the lake level had changed but little. After a long search, more plants were located in somewhat deeper water and this time the specimens were much more robust. These have been identified as Bycreus sanguinolentus (Vahl.) Nees. Botany Division of the D.S.I.R. informs me that this plant has been recorded from two other places in Northland.

Another interesting find was Gnaphalium candidissimum Lam., a native of Cape Province, S. Africa. This was first recorded as growing in New Zealand when it was collected in 1961 from the shore of Lake Waiparera, just north of Kaitaia. At this lake it was growing in seepage, whereas at Muriwai Lake it was half submerged and this evidence could show that it has a preference for wet feet. It is a dainty little plant. The stems and leaves are clad in dense white tomentum and amongst the woolly heads there is a peep of colour, for only the tips of the phyllaries are white, the lower two-thirds being magenta. In comparison, our native G. luteo-album has brown phyllaries giving it a rather drab appearance.

In recent years Mr. Warren noted one of the liverworts, Ricciocarpus sp. growing in profusion on the same lake but on our November visit there was no sign of it. This is a very small water plant and quite unattractive to the layman but records of its distribution are always desirable.

I strongly support the suggestion made by Miss Davis in the last Newsletter that another visit to Muriwai Lake, at a different time of the year, would be most profitable. Although the lake is land-locked the water table changes throughout the year so that the plant life is not static, also the number of wild-fowl which visit the area must add to the plant species, all of which should give an impetus for further search.

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<sup>T</sup>This article refers to the Helensville Lakes outing 16.11.68