

gathering additional plants to fill in gaps in the collections and to provide new subjects. As recently as January of this year a catalogue of plants in the Domain, together with their location, was compiled by Mr. Heginbotham and Mr. A.E. Esler of Auckland. This catalogue shows the scope and range of plants present, both of local origin and those introduced over the years.

The following will give some idea of the number of plants present in the Domain at January 1973:-

FERNS & FERN ALLIES	-	100
MONOCOTYLEDONS	-	70
GYMNOSPERMS	-	20
DICOTYLEDONS	-	<u>430</u>
TOTAL		620 species and varieties.

The Domain is well provided with graded tracks and the native tawa, puriri, rewarewa and nikau provide cool canopy cover. Grassy openings beside the tracks are planted with many of the collected plants, these 'newcomers' growing happily with their neighbours of longer standing. Indeed, it is a source of amazement to see plants from such a diversity of locations and habitats (outlying islands, coastal, forests and shrublands, montane and sub-alpine, warm northern areas and cool southern zones) all growing apace, in what must be to many, very strange surroundings.

A pleasant rockery at the entrance exhibits many plants of the montane and sub-alpine zones of our mountains. Considerable skill is needed to keep some of these alive in a warmer and more humid environment.

A large hollow puriri of historical interest is situated near the centre of the Domain, and was used as a burial place by the Npokerere, a sub tribe of the Whakatakeā.

Hukutaia Domain is then a place of varied interest, nurtured by nature and by people with a love for our native plants - indeed, a place worthy of not just one visit but of several.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS

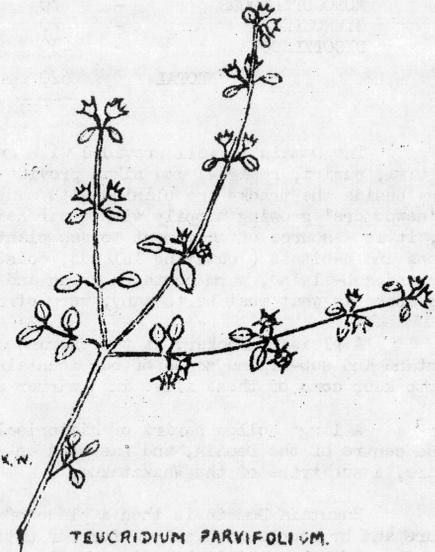
Mrs K. WOOD.

On a recent visit to Price's Valley on Banks Peninsula I was introduced to a divaricating shrub which was quite new to me, Teucrium parvifolium. It is a plant which we do not see growing in Auckland, although its range is from Whangaroa to Balclutha. I note that no mention was made of it in the account of the Auckland Botanical Society's 1971 trip to Banks Peninsula, and also that Mr. Butler

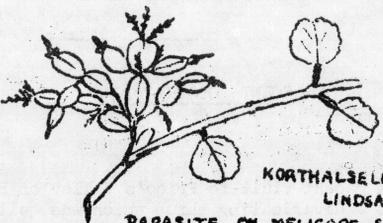
expressed disappointment at not seeing it there during the 1964 trip, so I would imagine it is not familiar to our members. The specimen I have drawn was in seed but the flower is described as two lipped, 8 mm. long and white, and there is a drawing of it in "Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand" by A.L. Poole and N.M. Adams.

The one species of this genus is confined to New Zealand and strangely enough it is a member of the Verbenaceae and related to the puriri, *Vitex lucens*.

I was also very pleased to see that interesting parasitic plant, *Korthalsella lindsayi* growing on a branch of *Melicope simplex*.



TEUCRIDUM PARVIFOLIUM.



KORTHALSELLA
LINDSAYI.
PARASITE ON MELICOPE SIMPLEX.