

Scientific interest.

10. In particular teachers, organisers of wild flower competitions and leaders of visits and field meetings should bear these points in mind.

Introductions:

11. Plants should not be introduced into the countryside without the knowledge and agreement of your local nature conservation or natural history society."

GAULTHERIA ANTIPODA (SYN. EPIPHYTA) !

A. J. DAKIN.

In the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute, 22, 1890, the Rev. W. Colenso described and named a plant as Gaultheria epiphyta, this being based on a single specimen epiphytic on a species of Dicksonia in a "wood south of Dannevirke." The name was later placed as a synonym of G. antipoda by Burt and Hill (J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 49, 1935). Even though the original name did not stand, it must be admitted that the 'station' is most unusual for this species.

On a recent excursion along Milnes Creek, Mangatawhiri Valley, two plants of G. antipoda were sighted growing on the caudex of Dicksonia squarrosa. The plants were about 50 - 70 cm high, erect, with leaves elliptic oblong 10 - 15 mm. long by 7 - 9 mm. wide, petiole 1 - 1.5mm. The location is at grid reference N 48-688297 on a ridge just above the stream in tawa forest. As far as could be ascertained no plants grew on the ground in the immediate vicinity.

The usual station for G. antipoda in the Hunua is on roadside banks and in 'heath' associations. Even in these habitats it is by no means plentiful or widespread and generally assumes a low growing, straggling habit.

The epiphytic plants are in a relatively undisturbed forest area (that is save from animals) and are some distance from roads or heath association, indeed the location is far removed from the foregoing habitats and has a S.E. aspect in shady conditions beneath primary forest canopy, with usually high moisture, and low light levels.

On examination, only slight differences could be detected between the epiphytic plants and those from the 'usual' stations, however a full comparison can only be made when flowering material is gathered.

Members have perhaps noted G. antipoda growing in this way. It would be of interest to hear of any other locations where this occurs.

OLEARIA FURFURACEA Var. ANGUSTATA (KIRK) IN THE HUNUA RANGES.

A.J. DAKIN.

This variety of Olearia furfuracea is described in the Flora of N.Z. Vol. 1 and the type location is given as "northern portion of the Auckland district" T. Kirk, 1899.

In February, 1972, specimens matching this description were collected from scattered plants on the road to Mangatawhiri Reservoir - grid reference N 48-648292. About six plants were seen, these being confined to banks near the road. The specimens were confirmed as Olearia furfuracea var. angustata by Mr. A. Esler of Botany Division, Auckland.

In February of this year a further group of four to six plants answering to the description were located on the Moumoukai Hill Road above Ness Valley, grid reference N 43-645417. Plants are again confined to roadside banks and have apparently established since road construction was carried out.

Unfortunately recent earthworks on the Mangatawhiri Reservoir road have destroyed several of the large plants, and only one or two smaller shrubs survive. It will be of interest to see if they re-establish, at some future date, on the clay banks.

The variety is conspicuous in flower with 2 or 3 broad ray florets - my specimens have mainly 3. In some plants the phyllaries were distinctly red in colour.

It should be noted that flowering of this variety, at least in this area, is usually later (Feb/Mar) than Olearia furfuracea.

SECOND BLOOMING

Mrs. L. WORTHINGTON.

This last summer our cabbage trees had two periods of blooming, the normal one in October and November and then again in March and April they were white with blossom, much to the delight of the birds, especially the starlings and blighties which feasted on the honey first and then the berries. The second crop of flowers were not completely new as they developed on the seemingly dead spikes of the first flowering.

The tuis are so busy in the kohekohe trees with their lily of the valley like flowers growing from such woody branches, I could not see that the tiny flowers would have much nectar and when I split flowers open none could be seen, but the tip of my tongue proved there was sweetness there.