

correct identification. We were shown a chart with some very clear drawings of different types of stipules.

There are other vegetative characteristics that are useful. In C. robusta, for example, there are tiny hairs on the margins of the young leaves especially, but these are not present in C. lucida. The leaves of C. astonii have a notch at the tip with a tuft of hairs in.

Flowers of Coprosmas are not much use for identification purposes and fruit colour is not rigid enough to be relied upon completely. C. parviflora fruit for instance, can be any one of the complete range of Coprosma fruit colours except blue.

There were living specimens of a number of Coprosma species for us to look at, a very useful complement to the lecture.

At this point we were introduced to a second speaker, Miss Sue Clark, a University student who is at present looking at Coprosma macrocarpa to see whether the mainland form is distinct from the Three Kings plant. She drew diagrams for us showing the different fruit arrangements in C. macrocarpa and C. robusta and discussed these in some detail.

The last part of this most interesting evening was taken up with a series of slides of several different Coprosma species. Our thanks go to Mrs Taylor, Miss Clark, Mr. Braggins for the slides and Mrs Bedford who provided much of the living material.

A.D.P.

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OUTING

MERCER BAY TRACK - 16th. JUNE

Our visit to this track drew an attendance of 41, which is a little below our usual number of late. The weather, for the time of the year, was mild and pleasant, making our walk most enjoyable. Very good visibility enabled us to see, before setting off, Mt. Karioi some 80 or 100 miles to the south.

It was not long before we were able to draw the attention of our members to two plants quite new to some of them, Myosotis petiolata var. pansa and Mentha cunninghamii.

On reaching the turnoff to the Comans Track, we came to Corokia cotoneaster in plenty, making a fine show with its bright red berries. The native passion fruit, Tetrapathea tetrandra, was also plentiful in this spot.

From here the usual mixed coastal vegetation was passed through. There were Sophora microphylla var. fulvida, Flanchonella novo-zelandica (tawapou), Metrosideros excelsa (pohutukawa),

Cassinia retorta, Vitex lucens ( puriri ), Beilschmiedia tarairi,  
Knightia excelsa ( rewarewa ) and others, including of course much  
manuka ( Leptospermum scoparium ).

After lunch in a sheltered, warm spot on the cliffs we followed the Comans Track down to Kārekare, expecting the usual good showing of ferns, but were disappointed in this respect, due no doubt to winter conditions.

We thank Mr. Hatch for leading this interesting trip, with its wonderful views of sea and cliffs. Incidentally the only orchid seen during the day, a Pterostylis alobula, was spotted by him.

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Articles submitted for publication in the next issue of the Newsletter should reach me not later than mid-October. They may be either handwritten or typed but any illustrations should be drawn in Indian ink, or Xerox copied, the same size as required in print.

Editor.