

in the area) indicated that toii was more abundant on higher ground in the early 1900's (1910-14), being present in well lit openings in the tawa forest. Mr St Paul remembered several large specimens, one in particular having multiple branching with several heads.

Since that time many man - animal induced changes have occurred in the area and toii declined in abundance to the few survivors recorded in 1971. It was postulated - "that the numbers of C. indivisa will decline still further to the extinction of the species in the Humuas within the not too distant future."

Earlier this year I revisited Point 21, mainly with the objective of collecting seeds and cuttings of several upland plants for the nursery. This gave the opportunity to examine again the small colony of toii and reassess condition after six years.

A diligent search was made around the point for plants mapped in 1971, but all that could be located was the lower trunk of the largest toii with one small (pathetic) leaf tuft at the base. All the smaller plants have died and the 'open ground' where most were located now has a dense covering of Blechnum discolor, although some open grassy patches still exist. Plants dominant in the adjacent shrubland include Dicksonia squarrosa, Quintinia serrata, Olearia rani, Pseudopanax arboreum, P. crassifolius, Griselinia littoralis and Meliccytus ramiflorus.

So (sadly) it would appear that my earlier forecast - that the small northern outlier of toii would disappear has come true. Clearly though before one can finally pronounce the extinction of the species in the Humuas a more detailed search of the higher ground needs to be undertaken - although it does seem that the chance of locating further plants is very remote.

THE ALBANY PITCHER PLANT -- CEPHALOTIS FOLLICULATUS

JEAN KING

During a recent trip to Western Australia, I had the good fortune to see this now rather rare insectivorous plant growing in its natural environment. As we approached Albany, I searched in many swampy areas to no avail, so approached the tourist bureau for information. This was supplied, along with a map with the route arrowed to a likely area. The girl at the bureau doubted if I would find it as people had been taking plants from the area. She also told me that it grew among reed and sedges in the swamp. I am happy to say that despite what had been taken, I managed to find about eight clumps of the plant growing within a few feet of each other and feel that there would be more in less accessible places in the swamp.

The plant was much smaller than I expected and a little like Drosera with similar green and red colouring and hairs on the lid and ridges on the side of the pitchers.

The inside leaves of the plant are flat but the outer ones are modified into pitchers containing plant juices and having a

grooved lip and lid. The lid is usually half open but may close in hot weather to reduce evaporation. Insects which venture into the pitcher cannot escape, drown and are digested by the plant.

The plants I found would be about 10 cm across with pitchers 3 cm high. As these can reach 5 cm, the plants were probably young. It was too early to see the flowers which bloom in late summer. The sweetly scented small white flowers are in a cluster on a stem up to 60 cm high.

The plant is the one member of its family and grows sporadically, only in coastal areas in the S.W. of Western Australia.

OUTINGS

SMITHS BUSH and KAURI PARK - A.D. MacArthur

On Saturday 21st May a group of members set out by bus, under threatening skies, to visit Smith's Bush and Kauri Park - two areas of bush right on the front doorstep of Auckland one might say. More members joined the party as we gathered at the Onewa Domain entrance to walk into Smith's Bush, which will be familiar to many as the patch of bush which has been cut in two by the Northern Motorway near Takapuna. Fortunately there was little rain to trouble us as we made up our lists of native trees and plants growing naturally within a few minutes drive of Queen Street.

The first obvious thing about Smith's Bush, even as one drives through it on the motorway, is the predominance of Podocarpus dacrydioides. In other words it is a surviving remnant of kahikatea forest. As we walked into the area we found much of it flat, except for the part sloping fairly steeply down to the edge of the harbour, and into one gully. Other larger tree species forming a significant part of the canopy are Vitex lucens, Beilschmiedia tarairi, B. tawa, Sophora microphylla, and one tree about which there was some doubt as to whether it was Podocarpus spicatus or P. ferrugineus (the foliage was difficult to see; what I could see appeared to be that of P. ferrugineus. There did not seem to be any young plants of either species about).

Young specimens of Alectryon excelsus, Podocarpus totara, P. dacrydioides and Sophora microphylla were quite numerous, which was gladdening as the area is obviously trampled a great deal by children playing etc. Other species noted were as follows:-

Flowering Plants

<u>Carmichaelia aligera</u>	<u>Hedycarya arborea</u>
<u>Carpodetus serratus</u>	<u>Macropiper excelsum</u>
<u>Collospermum hastatum</u>	<u>Melicope ternata</u>
<u>Coprosma areolata</u>	<u>Melicytus micranthus</u>
<u>C. rhamnoides</u>	<u>Metrosideros perforata</u>
<u>C. robusta</u>	<u>Myrsine australis</u>
<u>Corynocarpus laevigatus</u>	<u>Paratrophis microphylla</u>
<u>Cyathodes fasciculata</u>	<u>Parsonsia heterophylla</u>
<u>Dysoxylum spectabile</u>	<u>Pennantia corymbosa</u> (?)
<u>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</u>	<u>Solanum aviculare</u>
<u>Griselinia lucida</u>	