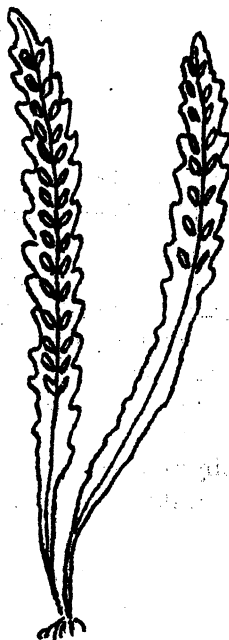
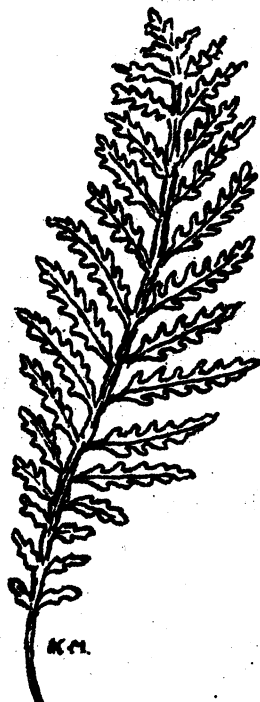


AN INTERESTING FINDKatie Wood Mays

In January 1951 I collected a strange little fern in the Lower Hollyford Valley. It grew on a bank by the Demon Trail which follows Lake McKerrow from Martin's Bay to the head of the lake. The specimen was sent to the Botany Division, D.S.I.R., Christchurch and I forgot about it until recently when my attention was drawn to the N.Z. Journal of Botany 1977, Vol. 15, pages 597-9 where appeared the results of a study by Barbara Parris. Her paper entitled "A naturally occurring intergeneric hybrid in Grammitidaceae (Filicales): *Ctenopteris heterophylla* x *Grammitis billardieri*". I was most interested that she thought "it reasonable to assume that it is a natural hybrid between these species". Also I quote, "This plant resembles no other fern known to occur in New Zealand....No other material which may possibly be identical has been seen, although much New Zealand and Australian material has been examined". If any members are thinking of visiting the wilds of the Lower Hollyford region perhaps they would like to search for more specimens of this fern. Surely it is not the only one!

*Grammitis billardieri*

Hybrid

*Ctenopteris heterophylla*.