

somewhat aberrant for a Caladenia, so has been dismissed as an abnormal form of something ... (see for example Rupp in Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. 71:1947. p.278). However the specimen (which I examined in 1975) is still housed in the Smith herbarium in the Linnean Society of London and is a perfectly normal Caladenia carnea ... Since catenata is the older epithet it must take precedence over carnea. This Druce pointed out in 1916, but was ignored by all until Halle revised the orchids of New Caledonia in 1977 ...

So that the orchids we have been calling Caladenia carnea R.Br. now become-
CALADENIA CATENATA (Smith) Druce Rep. Bot. Exch. Club. 2:1916. p.611

Syn. Caladenia carnea R.Br. Prodr. 1810. p.324

Arethusa catenata J.E. Smith Exotic Botany. 2:1804. p.89.t.104

This is an exceedingly variable species in which many varieties and forms have been described. Of the 4 which can be found in the Auckland area 2 have been given the new combination -

Caladenia catenata var minor (Hook.f.) W.M. Curtis Students Flora of Tasmania 1980. p.106

Caladenia catenata var exigua (Cheesem.) W.M. Curtis ibid. p.107

and 2 have so far not -

Caladenia carnea var bartletti Hatch Trans.R.S.N.Z. 77:1949. p.402

Caladenia carnea var minor forma calliniger Hatch Trans.R.S.N.Z. Bot. 2: 1963. p.187

I am indebted to Dr. Ella Campbell for a copy of the Orchadian paper and Mr. D.F. Blaxell for the relevant pages of Curtis.

WHY SPANIARD?

J. Beever

In 1926 Johannes Andersen in the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute Vol. 56, pp.659-714 published a long article, "Popular Names of New Zealand Plants", in which he wrote, "The same remark applies to the name for Aciphylla - spaniard - another name of unexplained origin." Under the list for Aciphylla species he gave over 20 popular names which however reduce to only three basic non-maori names. They are, speargrass, bayonet grass (or plant) and spaniard with numerous adjectives e.g. greater, wild, bloody &c. Like Andersen I could not see a reason for the name but I now know that the germ of the answer was there, if we could only have been a little more perspicacious.

Recently in a newspaper article I read a name which in a flash gave me the answer. I found the book referred to; it is unpublished but was completed in 1977. A copy is held in the National Library and another copy in the Auckland Institute and Museum library. It is called, "The Pioneer Land Surveyors of New Zealand", and was compiled from biographical notes on 900 early surveyors from 1840-1900 by Charles A. Lawn F.N.Z.I.S. of Orehunga who retired in 1958 as the Chief Surveyor of the Lands and Survey Department in Auckland.

PLANT NAMES IN THE WEST INDIES

The pieces that concern us are, p.9, "Even the extensive plains such as Canterbury, were clothed with tall scrub, flax and tussocks, including the impenetrable 'Wild Irishman' (Discaria toumatou), and the 'SpearGrass' or 'Spanish Bayonet' (Aciphylla squarrosa)."

And in the glossary of Maori Terms, "Spaniard (Aciphylla colensoi) (also Kurikuri shrub) with masses of long needle-sharp spines. Growing in extensive thickets it often proved a barrier to man and beast. It has now been almost entirely eradicated. Also known as wild Spaniard or Spanish bayonet." Well the key was in Andersen's list but we couldn't see it.

I then turned to the dictionaries, which all said the same thing in various ways. Random House Dictionary. "Spanish bayonet - any of certain liliaceous plants of the genus Yucca having narrow spine tipped leaves (in allusion to its tropical American origin). ...Spanish dagger - Yucca gloriosa of S.E. U.S.A. Leaves 2½ ft. long ..." World Book. Spanish Bayonet grows in South United States, Mexico and the West Indies. The BIG Oxford English Dictionary. Spanish Bayonet. A species of Yucca, a liliaceous plant with a crown of linear lanceolate leaves found in the south of North America. ...Spaniard 3 (a) The New Zealand plant Aciphylla colensoi characterised by its long prickly grass-like leaves; New Zealand bayonet or Speargrass. The first published reference is given as 1851.

Now to put it all together we must go back to the West Indies and the mainland adjacent to the Caribbean at the beginning of the 19th Century, where the name Spanish Bayonet was a common-name for sharp leaved species of Yucca among English speakers. Trading and naval ships moved around the area constantly and some officers and crews later joined ships bound for Australia. From there some ended up on other ships which set up and serviced the whaling stations around Cook Strait and along the east and south coasts of Canterbury and Otago. Those in Canterbury and Otago who either came ashore to set up and work whaling stations or at least spent some time in them would undoubtedly come face to face with the Aciphylla and recognise it straight away as a New Zealand counterpart of the Yucca. A picturesque name like Spanish Bayonet would catch the fancy of many and so the name stuck and grew popular.

But why Spaniard? I think two points are relevant. First the name Spanish Bayonet is a long one if you wish to abuse the plant when you have just run into a thicket. And secondly in giving a name to its companion shrub, equally prickly in its own way the humorists had personified it to "Irishman" so why not make the other a Spaniard. Andersen's lists soberly include "bloody Spaniard" and "bloody-Spaniard" but I wonder if the Danish born Andersen was recording the full name of the plant or just an emotional description of it that he had heard.

Finally it is interesting that three of the most folksy and perplexing English popular names for New Zealand native plants should have originated in the West Indies. Besides Spaniard both Supplejack and Cabbage Tree have their source in the Caribbean where as in New Zealand, but at a much earlier time, Englishmen had met a new lush vegetation quite foreign to them and reacted by creating imaginative and fascinating new names. But more of that later perhaps.