

found in Tuatara, volume 12, November 1964, is a valuable help in the naming of the mosses you may be studying.

Mosses are very particular in the situation in which they grow, many of them choosing only one habitat. Some are restricted to growing on rocks, some on logs, some on wet ground, some on limestone, some on dry clay soil, some on the bark of a tree trunk and some on the bark of tree branches. One species is restricted to growing on tree fern trunks, others grow only in water. It is a help in the identification of a moss if a record is kept of the situation in which the moss was found.

In a later edition of the Journal will be given details of those parts of a moss that must be examined when one is attempting to name it. As mosses are small plants, and as its parts are sometimes very small, the assistance of a good lense will be needed. A microscope, if one is available to you, will be invaluable.

THE NEED TO NOTE

by L.H. Kyle.

On a recent Society trip to the Waipara Gorge, several botanical species were noted, which are known to be of very local occurrence, so local that their virtual extinction is by no means an impossibility. Indeed, near the area which we explored, this same possibility was dramatically demonstrated; on some high flat land above the gorge there had been some spraying for briar, and an intense cloud of spray had drifted over the escarpment and down a long slope of broken limestone. On this slope, all shrubby vegetation had been killed, and this included many bushes of *Sophora prostrata*, and innumerable specimens of *Clematis afoliata*.

As New Zealand becomes more intensely farmed and civilised. it is inevitable that the private sanctuaries of certain local species be increasingly violated, and even destroyed. To some extent this can be hindered

by the formation of small and influential pressure groups (which our society does tend to become), but no matter how much we are on the watch, nor even if our preventative efforts are 100% successful wherever applied, certain instances will escape our notice. It is therefore most essential, wherever we go as a society or as botanically-minded individuals, that exact records of plant locations be kept, for posterity's sake if not for our own satisfaction.

The study of certain European plants would be considerably facilitated if only their past distribution on the Continent could be more exactly known. Already it is greatly regretted that more exact notes were not kept about plant locations on Banks Peninsula during the last century, before the burning was completed and the widespread grazing begun. To my mind, this is one of the most important works that our Society can do - to record what grows where - now. The need is right at our doorsteps, as Christchurch pushes out onto sand, swamp, river-bed and hill; or we can go a little further afield, along the foothills, where the bush continues to be pushed back, and the valleys to be further farmed.

Our members have the knowledge; let us put it to this common use.

GROWING NATIVE PLANTS IN POTS.

by Daphne A. Banks.

The honorary editor has asked me to give some details of my experiences in the growing of native plants in pots. I hope that these very brief notes on my failures and successes will prove of interest to members.

Pseudopanax arborea - Seed sown in $\frac{1}{2}$ sand and compost in a pot outside with glass on top. Potted from 3 to 5 inches, planned as a tub plant but eventually planted in garden so that it would not die from drought.

Pseudopanax colensoi - Kept in a pot in frame shaded from hottest sun.

Dracophyllum traversii - In 5 inch pot 2'6" tall surrounded by large plastic bag for humidity on hot dry sunny days. Plenty of soil taken from natural habitat with river sand added when potted.