

Phymatodes diversifolia
Pyrrosia serpens

Tongue fern
Snake fern

Lichens

Cladia aggregata

soil

Physcia sp.

shrubs

Pseudocyphellaria spp.

stones,

shrubs

Usnea sp.

shrubs

Xanthoria sp.

shrubs

Some of the adventive plants (Lobularia, Gazania and Pittosporum) are garden escapes from the settlement at Birdlings Flat. Otherwise the assemblage of species is a very interesting one indeed, with some unexpected species occurring side by side. It is hoped that a sufficiently large area will be permanently reserved, although the presence of sheep is probably beneficial to the maintenance of the open vegetation. Dr Lucy Moore tells me that the Horned poppy is a new occurrence in the area. I could no longer find the Sea holly, Eryngium vesiculosum this year but Hypoxis pusilla is abundant. Further along the Spit Dr Brian Molloy and I found, this year, a large colony of Dodonaea viscosa, plenty of Ngaio and a few Kowhai 'trees'. Other interesting finds may turn up in future. Again, it is hoped that part of the dune area will be reserved.

REFERENCES

EVANS, L.T. 1953. The ecology of the halophytic vegetation at Lake Ellesmere, New Zealand. J. Ecol. 41, 106-22.

WALL, A. 1953. The Botany of Christchurch. Reed, Wellington.

"Seek'st thou the plashy brink of weedy lake?"

William Cullen Bryant

IN MEMORIAM

by John Thompson

One of the plants of special interest to me found growing in the Lyttelton Reserve 101 was a solitary specimen of the fern, Ruhmora adiantiformis. This fern may be seen frequently in the West Coast bush, with fronds commonly over 2'6" long, climbing the trunks of established trees.

The specimen in the Lyttelton Reserve grew in a crevice on a cliff face quite in the open. Its rhizomes were stout and short and from them sprung a dozen or more thick tough leaves only 3 to 4 inches long.

For a number of years I have enjoyed looking at this fern and appreciated its success in overcoming the rigorous and unnatural environment.

On my last visit to the Reserve it was no longer to be seen. Whether it died of natural causes or whether it had been taken by a "plant lover" I do not know.

The list of plant species in the Reserve was produced in 1965. At least 7 species on that list are no longer to be found in the

Reserve.

As one grows older one has to adjust oneself to losing friends both human and botanical.

"Aftercomers cannot guess the beauty been"

Gerard Manley Hopkins

BEECH FOREST NEAR LONG BAY ROAD, BANKS PENINSULA

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Beech forest on Banks Peninsula at one time extended along the tops of the ridges from behind Long Bay (Parakakariki) to Damons Bay outside Akaroa Heads. (Laing 1914). Today all that remains are isolated small areas usually surrounded by gorse in land now converted to pasture. The remnant described here is situated just off the road to Long Bay below the place known as the Cabstand and was examined in February 1968. The grid reference is N.Z.M.S. 1 S94 34-22.

Nothofagus fusca and N. solandri var. cliffortioides are the principal trees, and hybrids between the two are common. The trees are large and well formed, the largest trunk measured having a diameter of over eight feet with others ranging from five to seven feet across. The estimated height of the trees was up to eighty feet. In the central part of the area the tree trunks are long and straight and on the outer fringe the trees are low branched. There is plenty of evidence of fire throughout and around the area. Animals have access and some plants, especially ferns, are well eaten back. A small stream runs through the forest. No epiphytes or parasites were noted and the moss and lichen flora is very restricted but otherwise the small species list is similar to that of some other beech forests. Fifty four higher plants were recorded, including fifteen fern, five shrub and eleven tree species. Only one introduced species, Mycelis muralis, was noted. Specimens of certain species have been deposited in the herbarium of the Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

FERNS

Asplenium bulbiferum Forst.f.
" flaccidum Forst.f.
Blechnum capense (L.) Schlecht.
" discolor (Forst.f.) Keys.
" fluviatile (R.Br.) Salom.
" penna-marina (Poir.) Kuhn
Cyathea smithii Hook.f.
Grämmitis billardieri Willd.
Histiopteris incisa (Thunb.) J.Smith
Hymenophyllum (Mecodium) sp.
Hypolepis millefolium Hook.
Phymatodes diversifolium (Willd.) Pic. Ser.
Polystichum richardii (Hook.f.) J.Smith.
Pteridium aquilinum var. esculentum (Forst.f.) Kuhn.
Todea hymenophylloides A.Rich.