

FRONTISPIECE

Mr. Cecil Dunn once more supplies the frontispiece to the Journal. This time it is a drawing of a plant formerly known as *Helichrysum purdiei*, now considered to be a hybrid between *Helichrysum bellidioides* and *H. glomeratum*.

Eight plants, of varying size, can be seen in the Lyttelton Reserve No. 101 on the grassy slopes below the upper cliffs. The largest plant is a flaccid shrub some two feet six inches high by two feet wide.

In late October or early November it is covered with masses of flowers similar to the illustration. Both parents grow not far from their offspring.

Cuttings of the plant root fairly easily but it has been found difficult to establish in Christchurch. The plants rapidly succumb to dryness and aphids.

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SOME RECENT FERN RECORDS FROM BANKS PENINSULA

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It is fortunate for the present-day student that ferns and fern-allies received a great deal of attention in the early history of New Zealand botany. In the case of Banks Peninsula, detailed records by enthusiastic amateurs such as T.H. Potts and the Armstrongs ensured that we now have a fairly complete picture of the fern flora. William Martin and R.M. Laing between 1910 and 1920 continued the work started by their predecessors; from about 1920 onwards the late Professor Arnold Wall contributed to our knowledge of the ferns of the Peninsula, adding many new records. Numerous people have kindly given me recent records and I am grateful to all who have done this. It is hoped that an up-to-date census can be published eventually.

Almost a century ago T.H. Potts wrote, "the peninsula forests will probably be exterminated at no distant date" (1878, 359). His prophecy has proved to be dismally accurate and this undoubtedly accounts for the

present local scarcity or even apparent extinction of species once common on the peninsula. Of 103 species of ferns recorded from Banks Peninsula, 79 definitely occurred at one time but only 64 have been recorded since 1950. Only about half the last can be regarded as common or widespread, a state of affairs in contrast to the reports of botanists such as Potts.

Under each of the following rare species, records are given in chronological order and their source is indicated. Where herbarium specimens are known, CANTY indicates Canterbury Museum and CHR indicates Botany Division, D.S.I.R. Names of ferns are according to Allan (1961).

#### ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES

1878 "on the lower slopes of Mount Herbert", T.H.Potts; 1931 Charteris Bay Valley, c. 2000 ft., A Wall CANTY (mentioned in Wall, 1953); 1946-47 track from Gebbies Pass to Sign of Packhorse, L.J. Metcalf pers. comm.; 1963 Saddle Hill, E.K. Duxbury CHR.

#### AZOLLA RUBRA

1880 Banks Peninsula, J.B. Armstrong; 1920 Pigeon Bay, W.Martin; 1953 Christchurch area, A. Wall; 1965 Motukarara, R. Mason CHR; 1970 near Opawa Railway Station, J. Thompson, pers. comm.; 1971 Halswell River at Tai Tapu, D.R. Given observation.

#### CYATHEA MEDULLARIS

1846 Akaroa, Raoul; 1920 seaward side of Wainui and at Hickory Bay, W. Martin; 1967 seaward side of Wainui (probably), W.R. Sykes pers. comm.; 1968 French Farm, W.R. Sykes, CHR; 1971 near Akaroa (probably), A.W. Ericson, pers. comm. Mr. E.K. Duxbury has mentioned to me that it may once have grown at Pigeon Bay.

#### GLEICHENIA CUNNINGHAMII

1880 Banks Peninsula, J.B. Armstrong; 1882 Port Levy, T.H. Potts; 1920 Le Bons Bay "five years ago .... whence it has now totally disappeared", Martin; 1963 Saddle Hill, E.K. Duxbury CHR.

#### HYMENOPHYLLUM FLABELLATUM

1919 Mount Herbert Peak, Peraki reserve, R.M. Laing; 1920 Peraki reserve, Wainui, Akaroa, Takamatua, Le Bons Bay, W.Martin; 1966 head of Flea Bay, G. Kelly pers. comm.; 1971 Damons Bay, D.R. Given and A.W. Ericson CHR.

HYMENOPHYLLUM PELTATUM

1910 Long Bay, R.M. Laing; 1920 Long Bay, W. Martin;  
1967 Mount Sinclair, N.C. Lambrechtsen CHR.

RUMOHRA ADIANTIFORMIS

c. 1880 Port Hills, Armstrong, CANTY; 1920 Grehans Valley, Newtons Valley, Wainui area, Martin; 1944 above Rapaki, L.J. Metcalf pers. comm.; 1960-70 various records from near Mount Pleasant (R.K. Wilson, G. Brownlie, J. Thompson) but recorded by J. Thompson (1970) as no longer present; 1970 Akaroa area, A.W. Ericson, pers. comm.; 1971 Damons Bay, D.R. Given and A.W. Ericson, CHR.

The following species are known to have once occurred on Banks Peninsula. No post-1950 records of these are known to me and the date quoted is the most recent definite record of which I am aware; Adiantum fulvum (1919), Anarthropteris lanceolata (1920), Arthropteris tenella (1880), Gleichenia circinnata (before 1920), Hymenophyllum bivalve (before 1920), Hymenophyllum malingii (1882), Hymenophyllum revolutum (1919), Hymenophyllum villosum (1919), Lastreopsis hispida (1922), Lastreopsis microsora (before 1920), Pellaea falcata (before 1950), Phymatodes scandens (1919), Pteris tremula (1920, possibly 1946), Trichomanes endlicherianum (1921).

Records and/or specimens of these or any other ferns and fern-allies from the Peninsula would be appreciated. It is likely that most of the species in the second list above will be relocated; this will depend largely on the tenacity and thoroughness of those with an interest in these local plants.

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