

Hibiscus trionum:

Allen Cunningham doubts this plant being indigenous, which Colenso does not: and I have given it the benefit of the doubt. Time will afford sufficient evidence for if introduced it has already spread so rapidly that it will soon be over all the warm parts of the Northern Island.

Ibid.

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EDITORIAL WANDERINGS

Carex appressa: As Prof. Arnold Wall's booklet on the Botany of Christchurch was written 50 years ago it is unlikely that all the plants mentioned therein will have survived to the present day. It was very pleasing to find, on the 18th June, 1972, that Carex appressa was still growing in the situation recorded by him, that is in the last major gully before the Lighthouse. Beware of the coarsely scabrid edges of the leaves. Experience has taught this investigator that careless handling can lead to unpleasant cuts on ones fingers.

Prof. Wall comments that these plants are the only plants of C. appressa to be found near to Christchurch. Long may they remain.

Earina autumnalis: As an additional bonus to the above excursion Earina autumnalis was seen growing on a cliff lower down in the same gully. The area covered by the orchid was by far the largest seen by me on the Port Hills and judging by the seed heads the flowering during autumn must have been plentiful.

Asplenium lucidum: That most attractive fern Asplenium lucidum is abundant in the same gully. The majority of the cliffs bear plants of this shining thick leaved beauty.

Senecio saxifragoides: In the same gully five plants of Senecio saxifragoides were found with their golden flowers braving the wintry weather, a most delightful sight.

Ophioglossum coriaceum: Prof. Wall reports having seen Ophioglossum coriaceum on the road to the Lighthouse. Our first finding of Ophioglossum on this section of the Port Hills was on the same day. Numerous plants with the fertile fronds just emerging were seen six feet below the formed road that runs above this last gully.

Yaldhurst Water Race:

Again following Prof. Wall's footsteps we examined the water race that runs for some two miles on the side of the Old West Coast road above Yaldhurst. He records seeing three species of ferns and five of Carex growing on the side of this water course. We noticed four species of fern Blechnum capense was very, very abundant. The surprise to me was observing plants of Paesia scaberula with their rhizomes in the water. It has been found by me more commonly on dry banks. Three species of Carex were found in fruit with one species without nuts. This is a pleasant walk on a fine day.

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Asplenium: The New Zealand kinds have defied all attempts to be limited by words, and with the exceptions of A. flabellifolium and A. polygodon I know of no two, however dissimilar, that can well be distinguished at first sight from one another by descriptions. I would caution the New Zealand student against expressing any decided opinions on the Aspleniums till he has arranged a large herbarium of them, from all parts of the islands and compared the specimens with one another and with those from other parts of the world.

Ibid.

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AMURI HUTS SUMMER CAMP 1972

By: J.S. Reid

Have you ever walked off a map with only a hazy idea of what lay beyond? It was an experience of this sort which quickened my interest in the proposed summer camp.

Christmas - New Year 1933-4 was notable for heavy snowfalls in the mountains and even for broadcast concern about a University party from Wellington remote from huts in the upper Rainbow. Our route out was by a high level crossing from the Paske river over to the head of the Clarence. On that range I was careless enough to slice open a leg and hence had to forgo the trip from the overnight camp at Lake Tennyson to Lake Ada and the Waiau. With a companion I trudged the 20 odd miles down the Clarence to St. James Station. There was some slight degree of apprehension about our reception as two tramping types that we met on the way greeted us with the news that they had been chased out of the Station homestead by the ----- cook armed with an axe! But we got the "hot scones" type of welcome and even an