

always rare in Canterbury, and doubtless has become rarer since settlement. It is worth collecting and recording wherever it is seen in Canterbury, or indeed anywhere in the South Island.

Although rushlike in form it can readily be distinguished from the rushes even in the vegetative state by the overlapping papery scales covering the rhizomes. In flower or fruit, of course, there is no difficulty. The typical sedge flowers are so entirely different from the regular shaped rush flowers and the hard orange nut from the capsules full of small seeds of the rushes.

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ORCHIDS OF BANKS PENINSULA

M.J.A. Simpson

The orchids of Banks Peninsula have been listed by several authors since J.F. Armstrong (1870) included 6 species in his account of the "Vegetation of the neighbourhood of Christchurch". J.B. Armstrong (1880) listed 16 species, R.M. Laing (1914) 12, L. Cockayne (1915) 5, A. Wall (1953) 9 and C.J. Burrows (1969) 8. J. Thompson (1971) mentioned three species of Pterostylis not included in earlier lists. These records are tabulated here together with information about recent collections by G.C. & D. Kelly, the late R.H. Simpson of Nelson and members of the Canterbury Botanical Society (J. Thompson, Y. Elder, E. Shaw, C.J. Burrows and M.J.A. Simpson). Some recent collections re-establish early records and others are new for the peninsula.

Not all early records were substantiated by herbarium specimens and I have not located any orchid specimens collected by Laing from Banks Peninsula in the Canterbury Museum (CM), University of Canterbury (CANU) or Botany Division (CHR) herbaria. Species listed by various authors but not represented in these three herbaria are Acianthus reniformis, Bulbophyllum pygmaeum, Corybas oblongus, C. rivularis, Dendrobium cunninghamii, Lyperanthus antarcticus, Pterostylis australis, Pt. banksii, and Thelymitra venosa. There are specimens of Corybas macranthus collected by J.B. Armstrong and by von Haast and although neither Microtis nor Prasophyllum have been recently collected, both have been recorded and are known to be common in grassland areas on Banks Peninsula. What is now recognised as Pt. areolata might previously have been recorded as either Pt. banksii or Pt. australis and Thelymitra hatchii could have been mistaken for the blue flowered Th. venosa (Th. uniflora of J.B. Armstrong). Some of the others may well still be present and are worth watching for. Reports of Pt. foliata are few in the South Island and recent records of Pt. alobula extends the known distribution in the South Island from c. lat. 41°50' to c. 43°50'.

There are therefore eighteen species of orchids plus one variety known from Banks Peninsula from recent collections or records with two more, Corybas macranthus and Spiranthes sinensis supported by older specimens. Twenty-one different orchids is a greater number than has ever been recorded from the area before. A question is - are some new arrivals on the peninsula?

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ORCHID SPECIES RECORDED FROM BANKS PENINSULA 1870-1975

- a as Cyrtostylis oblonga
- b as Dendrobium pygmaeum
- c Corysanthes rotundifolia recorded
by J.B.A.
- d as Caladenia minor
- e as Thelymitra uniflora
- f as Corysanthes
- g as S. australis

	C.H.A.	C.B.A.	R.M.L.	I.C.	A.W.	C.D.B.	Recent Voucher specimen and collectors	Habitat/Locality
<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>		^a				-	-	
<i>Bulbophyllum pygmaeum</i>	^b	^d				-	CHR 212430, Y.E.	Sunny clay banks, Kaituna V.
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	^c		^d			-	CHR 224537, M.J.A.S.	Leptospermum scrub around beech forest.
<i>Caladenia lyallii</i>						-	CHR 224536, M.J.A.S.	Beech forest.
<i>Chiloglottis cornuta</i>						-	etc.	
<i>Corybas macranthus</i>	^f	^f	^f		^f	-	-	
<i>Corybas oblongus</i>	^f	^c				-	-	
<i>Corybas orbiculatus</i>						-	CHR 258682, G.C.K.	Mt. Herbert.
<i>Corybas rivularis</i>	^f	^f	^f	^f	^f	-	CHR 225931, M.J.A.S.	Common in forest.
<i>Corybas trilobus</i>	^f					-	etc.	
<i>Dendrobium cunninghamii</i>						-	-	
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>					⁺	-	CANU 1319, C.J.B.	Common on higher rocks.
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	⁺		[?]	⁺		-	CANU 1318, C.J.B.	Castle Rock, Stony Bay.
<i>Gastrodia cunninghamii</i>						-	CHR 183442, M.J.A.S.	Podocarp forest, Montgomery Bush.
<i>Lyperanthus antarcticus</i>						-	etc.	
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>			⁺	⁺	⁺	-	-	Common.
<i>Prasophyllum colensoi</i>	⁺		⁺	⁺	⁺	-	CHR 268990, R.H.S.	Common at higher levels.
<i>Pterostylis alobula</i>						-	CHR 221756, D.K.	Akaroa.
<i>Pterostylis areolata</i>						-	etc.	Light scrub, podocarp, forest and grassland.
<i>Pterostylis australis</i>			⁺			-	-	
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>			⁺	⁺	⁺	-	CHR 208210, J.T.	Grassy spur, Kaituna V.
<i>Pterostylis foliata</i>			⁺	⁺	⁺	-	CHR 226329 E.S.	Grassland, forest.
<i>Pterostylis graminea</i>			⁺	⁺	⁺	-	CHR 208208, M.J.A.S.	Podocarp forest,
<i>Pterostylis graminea</i> var. <i>rubricaulis</i>						-	etc.	Montgomery Bush and grassland.
<i>Pterostylis montana</i>						-	CHR 274157, J.T.	Grassy spur, Kaituna V.
<i>Pterostylis mutica</i>						-	CHR 221885, D.K.	Dry clearing + on rock Armstrongs Reserve.
<i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>		^g			^g	-	-	
<i>Thelymitra hatchii</i>						-	CHR 168159, G.C.K.	Stony Bay Rd., beyond mountain beech.
<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>	⁺		⁺	⁺	⁺	-	CHR 225928, M.J.A.S.	Common on open ground and among rocks.
<i>Thelymitra verosa</i>		^e				-	etc.	

J.F.A. - J.F. Armstrong; J.B.A. - J.B. Armstrong; R.M.L. - R.M. Laing;
L.C. - L. Cockayne; A.W. - A. Wall; C.J.B. - C.J. Burrows.
Recent collectors are named in text.

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FRONTICEPIECE

John Thompson

The fronticepiece, provided by Mr. Cecil Dunn is that of Carex inopinata, a carex which is found naturally in the limestone country of the Castle Hill Basin. This was reported on in Journal No. 6 1973.

After the experiments mentioned in that article were completed the plants were placed in a somewhat shady position of the garden and have since been given little attention.

Each plant has spread moderately, growth is very dense. Leaves are up to 31 cm long compared with 10 cm mentioned in the Flora. Culms reach up to 26 cm, c.w. Flora 1 cm, whilst inflorescences of 4 pedunculate spikes are common, one noted had 5 spikes, as against 3 in the Flora.

The male spike is terminal with sometimes a female spike close below. The other spikes are female, on one plant a male spike surmounted a female, and are placed near the base of the culm.

The peduncles range from 5 mm to 6 cm in length. The details of the glumes and utricles agree with the description in the Flora.

The mature culms were gathered early in December as against the end of March in the field.

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BLUE-FLOWERED PARAHEBE LINIFOLIA

by Hans Petersen

On the Wellington Botanical Society's summer trip, 19-25 January, 1972, we found Parahebe linifolia on the way up towards Mt. Owen, probably between 4-5000 feet, some growing on a little heap of stones, others a few yards from there on a nearly vertical rock wall. Flowers were in shades from pale blue, blue, to purple blue. Another patch was about a mile from there in the Granity Pass, also in blue shades.