

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.

In Allan's "Flora", Laing and Blackwell's "Plants of New Zealand", W. Martin's "The Flora of New Zealand", Mark and Adams "New Zealand Alpine Plants" and Salmon's "Field Guide to the Alpine Plants of New Zealand" only white and pink flowers of P. linifolia are mentioned. However, in Metcalf's "The Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs" (1972), colour illustration 38 shows "Parahebe linifolia 'Blue Skies'", and on page 202 this form is described as a new cultivar. Mr. Metcalf collected his plants on Mt. Owen and he gives details of its performance in cultivation in Christchurch, commending it highly as a rockery plant. It certainly deserves to be spread out over the world. I wonder if blue-flowered Parahebe linifolia has been found in other places also.

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BOOK NOTICE

K.W. Allison and J. Child: The
Liverworts of New Zealand
Otago University Press 1975.

LITTLE MOUNT PEEL - A CORRECTION

Bryony Macmillan

In the Journal No. 7, p. 32 I recorded a single liverwort from the summit of Little Mount Peel, as Lepidolaena. This specimen has since been identified by Mr. K.W. Allison as Ptilidium ciliare. The plant formed an attractive golden-brown mound between the tussocks at 1310 metres. It has deeply lobed leaves, fringed with cilia, for which it is remarkable among liverworts.

The species is found in the Northern hemisphere and South America and was first recorded for New Zealand by Mr. Allison in 1950 (as Ptilidium hodgsoniae Allison), from Bob's Cove, Lake Watatipu. Further Canterbury collections are from Arthurs Pass and Craigieburn Range, C.J. Burrows, and Godley Valley, D. Scott, all above 1200 metres altitude.

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