

Sodium hydroxide, calcium carbonate and ammonia may be used to make dye bath alkaline, and these may result in different shades of blue, but I haven't yet worked out the proper proportions to use.

References:

- Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, 1964: Dye Plants and Dyeing, pp.33-34.
- Clarkson, Rosetta E. 1971: (Nineteenth Printing)  
Herbs, their Culture and Uses.  
pp. 195.
- Culpeper, Nicholas Culpeper's Complete Herbal.  
pp. 391.
- Macleod, Dawn 1965 A book of Herbs. pp. 159-161.
- Culpeper's Complete Herbal - Copyright W. Foulsham and Co.Limited.

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MT. HERBERT AND MT. BRADLEY

The recent changing of the names of Herbert Peak and Mt. Herbert, which peaks are situated on the Southern side of Lyttelton Harbour, could lead to confusion if one tries to follow the paths of earlier botanists and examine the plants mentioned in their records.

In reading these records one should have in mind the following name changes:

The highest peak 3015 feet was called Herbert Peak and is now named Mt. Herbert. The lower castellated peak of 2865 feet is now named Mt. Bradley, its old name being Mt. Herbert.

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PLANT HUNTING WITH A CAMERA

by R. Drake

After years of enjoyment from a Ziess Camera and black and white film in the hills, I managed to afford a Pentax, which opened up a new and very satisfying "eva" (or something) for me. Most of the days were shared by my wife. I could identify a few of the flowers but most of them were named for me by Mr. John Thompson, and I am very grateful to him.

Perhaps the first plants were Anisotome pilifera and A. haastii in great profusion round Barker Hutt, White River, Waimak headwaters January, 1973. They had magnificent flower heads.

Haastia sinclairii above the Waimak Falls, in full flower and not knocked about by the chamois or rocks.

On our way home, masses of big white fruits of a Pimelia species on the river flats below Carrington Hut, and the glorious blue of the flowers of Utricularia monanthos at the Anti Crow.

In March, 1973, the huge red beech trees just above the N.Z.F.S. Hut in the Hawdon, about an hours walk from the road end at the Hawdon Shelter.

Labour Weekend 1973: Andrews River. Cyathodes colensoi in full flower (and covered in scale insects).

Xmas 1973: Bogs at the mouth of the White River opposite Carrington Hut. Hundreds of flowering Aporostylis bifolia, and Drosera arcturi, covered in the drops of "sticky", and with odd flowers.

Microtis unifolia in the grass by a friends bach at Arthurs Pass.

Flowers on the Dobson Nature Walk, which is well worth a visit, and where I found my first Euphrasias, ---- cockayniana and townsonii.

Then the head of Sudden Valley, to find a huge clump of Gentiana divisa close to the hut, and to marvel how the tender plants of Stellaria roughii survive in running scree.

February 1974: A well grazed sheep paddock at Inchbonnie, liberally sprinkled with the bright red fruits of Gunnera prorepens.

Easter 1974: At 5,000 feet, in the Peg Valley in the Arrowsmith Range, a lovely garden in and amongst a wilderness of broken rocks, fed by melt water from an ice patch.

In the Jagged Stream, acres of close growing Aciphylla, the highest and biggest I have ever tried to push through.

Hundreds of acres of Celmisia spectabilis ?? on burnt country on Prospect Hill in the Rakaia.

Early October: Prices Valley. Hundreds of scrub bushes covered in flowering Clematis foetida, great yellow mounds all over the slopes above the road.

Late November: Porters Pass. Great masses of flowers, 10 to 30 minutes easy walking from the road, notably Cyathodes colensoi and Drabetis dieffenbachii. An hour up the hill, Ranunculus haastii scattered everywhere like yellow or golden stars on the running scree. Seen for the first time, they were marvellous.

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HERPOLIRION NOVAE - ZELANDIAE

by Barbara De Lambert

Family Liliaceae. Grass Lily. HERPOLIRION NOVAE-ZELANDIAE.

This remarkable creeping, wiry plant which forms extensive grasslike swords is probably the smallest lily in the world. The glaucous, narrow crowded leaves sheath the stem alternately. Height: - Leaves 2.5 cm. - 5 cm.

Flowers 6 mm. - 12 mm. Sexes together. A very short flower stalk almost hidden by the leaves supports a white or pale blue flower, large for the size of the plant, funnel shaped, divided into six segments and containing six erect stamens which curve with flowering. The round capsule is embedded in the funnel which remains after the flower dies, and the black oblong seeds are ripe. Flowers December - February. Distribution - Waitomo Caves to Stewart Island in peaty places, especially sub alpine swamps, from sea level to 4,000 feet.

Reference:

Flora of New Zealand, L.B. Moore and E. Edgar.

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OUT IN THE OPEN

Monday, 1st March, 1886

Amongst plants probably useful for the manufacture of scents or essences, may be mentioned the ti-tree (Cordyline), ake-ake (Olearia) in its varieties, hine-hine (Meliccytus); Senecio cassinioides, one of the most fragrant of alpiners. One could point to an extensive area in the alpine country where this last-named shrub grew luxuriantly, delighting the wanderer with its most agreeable perfume, but for the sake of an annual rental of £5, the whole vegetation of the district, by a supine government, was allowed to be burnt and charred to ashes, truly metamorphosing the landscape, turning Elysium into Hades. Nor did the blunder end here, the drainage suddenly affected, floods and freshes overflowed and laid waste some of the most fertile low-lying lands; leaving huge shingle heaps and boulders as memorials of their destructive inroads. All this was allowed to pass so entirely without notice, that not even a few yards of red tape were expended in any enquiry on the subject.

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