

In these two species however the gemmae occupy a terminal position and are of a very different shape.

Although Allison and Childs also record T. papillosa as growing on cement mortar, my specimens have all come from the bark of Willows, Ash and Cabbage trees. On the Port Hills along the Summit Road it often grows intermixed with Tortula abruptinervis on Hoheria angustifolia.

Most of my collections have been from coastal areas but I also have one from Lake Rubicon where it occurred associated with T. abruptinervis and Calyptopogon mnioides on Willow.

EDITORIAL WANDERINGS

This last season has been a splendid one for ground orchids in the Banks Peninsula area. Our first sighting was on the 6th September, 1975 when 5 plants of Corybas trilobus were found in flower in Gibraltar Bush on the Port Hills. From that date until 31st December, 1975 we found orchids each week in different Peninsula localities.

GIBRALTAR BUSH

The first gully in the bush below Gibraltar Rock is worthy of attention by fern lovers. The ferns noticed on the 8th October, 1975 included many plants of Leptolepia novae-zelandiae, Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum growing on the ground, all others that I have seen on the Peninsula were growing on rocks or trees, and 6 adult specimens of Dicksonia squarrosa, for me the first finding of this tree fern species on the Port Hills. Over two dozen Alsophylla (Cyathea) smithii were growing well with 6 of them thickly covered around the base with that most attractive filmy fern Trichomanes venosum, an otherwise rare fern on the Port Hills.

Numerous splendid specimens of Pterostylis areolata were seen in flower in adjoining country.

MORICE SETTLEMENT RESERVE

This Reserve is well worth visiting in October. On the 15th October, 1975 we found many plants of Pterostylis graminea in the upper part of the Reserve. The lower portion is difficult to traverse due to supplejack. The Reserve contains splendid specimens of Podocarpus spicatus, dacrydioides and totara.

HYMENOPHYLLUM MINIMUM

Another first finding for me was a patch of Hymenophyllum minimum which was found growing under a rock on the Te Oka Road on the 29th October, 1975. As the name implies its toothed leaves are very small. The plant can be distinguished by the spines on the margins and on the backs of the valves. Growing near these ferns were some two dozen plants of Hebe lavaudiana showing their most attractive pink flowers. Not far away on the road bank were seen three patches of that small but interesting fern Grammitis armstrongii. This fern is widely distributed in the Southern Hemisphere.

PTEROSTYLIS FOLIATA

It was in 1970 that we last saw plants of Pterostylis foliata in

flower on the spur leading to the Sign of the Packhorse at Kaituna. Although we have examined the area each year it was not until 1st November, 1975 that we noticed several plants of this orchid in full flower on the same ridge and close to the area where it was first found. I wonder what has happened to these plants during the years between findings. Is it that we did not look carefully enough or is it that the seeds dropped in 1970 have taken until 1975 to come to maturity. Some English orchids are known to take several years to flower from seed sowing. Cultivated orchids commonly take up to five years to flower from seed sowing.

PTEROSTYLIS MONTANA

Pterostylis montana is a rare orchid on the Peninsula but we were fortunate in finding flowers in the following localities: on 3rd December, 1975 in a paddock off the Summit Road, not far from the Western Valley Road; on 20th December, 1975 on the road bank above Peraki Valley; on 31st December, 1975 on the grassy area on the lower portion of Carews Peak Reserve. This species appears to flower later in the season than is usual with ground orchids.

BOTRICHIMUM AUSTRALE

We have not seen Botrichium australe on the Peninsula for many years. We were pleased to come across a fine specimen of this fern on Mt. Herbert on the 3rd March, 1976. Its colouring was unusual. The lower of the two infertile fronds was of a dark red colour. The other infertile frond was green with a heavy red tinge. The sporangia were almost fully developed, beautifully shiny and were of a dark reddish green colour. It is usual for the infertile fronds in this species to be solitary, of a green colour with the sporangia commonly of a golden yellow colour at maturity.

SCIRPUS LACUSTRIS

For those who are interested in swamp plants a visit to a paddock on the left hand side of the highway a mile or so before reaching Motukarara would be rewarding. The major constituent is a large area of Scirpus lacustris, not very common in Canterbury, with many of its culms reaching 5 feet in height.

Also to be seen are Scirpus nodosus, Juncus caespiticius, J. gregiflorus, J. maritimus and the adventive J. articulatus.

CHILOGLOTTIS CORNUTA

In Journal No. 8 I mentioned seeing in part of the Bottle Lake Plantation at North Beach three patches of the orchid Chiloglottis cornuta and expressed a hope that they would spread.

This part of the forest has now been cut. The area on the 30th June, 1976 was a jumble of logs and branches. The chances of these orchids surviving seem remote.
