

gathered some ribbonwood flowers at Maruia Springs and it occurred to me that this matter of the fusion of the styles could be checked much more reliably on fresh than on pressed flowers. In subsequent weeks Peter Espie, Peter Wardle and Brian Molloy kindly collected more specimens for me at several localities about Arthur's Pass and Lewis Pass where eastern plants match H. lyallii and western ones approach H. glabrata. We found a few flowers at Lake Tennyson as late as 5th April. And the result?

In most flowers, whatever the leaves, at least half and more often two thirds of the style length stood free. Occasionally styles were scarcely joined at all, and not one flower was seen with such a long style tube as Kirk illustrated. Moreover, earlier and later flowers on one plant are not necessarily alike. The length of the style tube seems to follow more or less that of the stamen tube. In this respect therefore these flowers seemed to offer no help in deciding the relationship between H. lyallii and H. glabrata. It would still be worth looking at Fiordland flowers from this point of view when opportunity offers.

Relative total lengths of stamens and styles were not particularly noted but herbarium specimens suggest that styles may reach their final length early while stamens continue to elongate and overtop the styles in older flowers though the outer ones are shorter. Stigmas need looking at more carefully. The flattened style tip is inclined to bend over in a little crook and the slightly swollen convex surface forms the sticky stigma where pollen grains adhere. The question is whether the swelling takes the form of a round head (i.e. is capitate). Many stigmas could be described as obliquely capitate, that is intermediate between a crook and a knob; the difference may simply be how pronounced the swelling is.

The wings on the segments of the compound fruits are never as broad as in Hoheria angustifolia but there is always some wing at the top. Again fresh specimens show better than pressed ones how much wing, if any, there is down the broad back of each segment. Specimens from both east and west sides of Lewis Pass show at most a very slight keel.

Such small matters can easily be looked at by anyone with a good hand lens and observations recorded in our Journal reach other interested people.

---

EXTRACT FROM COUNTRY DIARY

MACHYNLLETH: There can be few families of wild plants more opportunist than the willowherbs. Many of us remember the glorious pink sheets of rosebay that suddenly swept across the sites of bombed buildings during the war. And thousands of gardeners battled every summer against tall forests of other species of this eager family. It is as if some willowherbs have no true natural habitat and so must always be looking for temporary homes. To follow this way of life they have everything in their favour, for their feathery seeds go floating off on the winds of all the world. But there is one invasive willowherb that looks all set to establish itself and remain put for ever more. This, the smallest and one of the most successful invaders of Britain, is the New Zealand willowherb, and to see it at its best you should take yourself to the mountains. For though it flourishes here and there in the lowland it is amongst our alpine plants that it really looks most happy, up around 2,000 feet and higher, in the world of the Snowdon Lily, the moss campion and the purple saxifrage, lumping across west scree and over damp rocks looking as if it had been there since time began, whereas 20 years ago there wasn't a sign of it up

there. Already it has become one of our commonest mountain plants, flourishing here far better than in its native New Zealand. So what is its destiny?

William Condry

---

BAUMEA RUBIGINOSA AGAIN

by R. Mason

Last years journal, in which my note on Baumea rubiginosa appeared, was scarcely out when two accusing fingers were pointed at me - the first by Dr. Brian Molloy who was justifiably astonished to find that I had left out the site of my own collection from the small relict swamp north of the Avon near the end of Palmers Road. Worse, I find that I had previously marked my copy of Wall's "Botany of Christchurch" where he recorded it for the North Brighton swamps. At the same time Wall mentioned a few plants on rocks on the side of Cashmere Valley. Then secondly Mrs. Bulfin pointed out that it was quite wrong to say that the Armstrongs had not found it in Canterbury for J.B. Armstrong in his paper on the Flora of Canterbury (Trans. N.Z. Inst. Vol. 12 1880) recorded it as occurring locally on Banks Peninsula and in Alpine regions. There do not seem to be any specimens for these early records, which are of course under the then current name of Cladium glomeratum. Readers will have noted that in last years journal it was also mentioned by Dr. Andrew Dobson for the Waipara Gorge.

It is still true that Baumea rubiginosa seems to have always been fairly rare in Canterbury and localities are worth noting and substantiating by specimens.

---

BAUMEA RUBIGINOSA - AND AGAIN

by John Thompson

I should like to add my mite to Ruth Mason's article on Baumea rubiginosa.

The writer and his wife in April visited the area at Journeys End where they found a patch of Baumea rubiginosa growing on 23rd May, 1973. As was expected farming operations have destroyed those plants.

However not too far away in the adjacent Ashley Forest, on the 14th April, 1976, a very small patch was seen partly hidden by vigorous growing rushes. A week later two Forestry officials were escorted to that locality in order to examine this Baumea. Alas, we were unable to find it.

After such a deflating experience we were delighted to discover on 23rd May, 1976, growing in a paddock behind the Leithfield Beach, a number of scattered plants of Baumea rubiginosa. In the area were many clumps of Scirpus nodosus, Juncus species and Eleocharis acuta. At this late date in the season the Baumea culms were beginning to die down.

On examining the specimens taken it was noticed that none of the nuts were fully developed. They were trigonous in shape and fairly soft.