

HYMENOPHYLLUM MALINGII

By John Thompson

On the Tasmanian tour we found the fern Hymenophyllum malingii at two sites, the first on rocks on the top of a stream bank in the Hartz Mountain National Park. The second site was on the base of a large tree near the Museum at Cradle Mountain. One of the members of the Tasmanian Society for growing native plants expressed the opinion that there was some difference between the New Zealand and Tasmanian plants of this fern. I have compared the specimens, very few, from the Hartz Mountains with specimens taken from three sites in New Zealand, one in the North Island and two in the South Island.

One obvious difference is in the length of the lamina. Allen gives the length of the lamina of New Zealand species as 5 to 10 cm. The Hartz Mountain specimens range from 8 to 17 mm. The smallness of the lamina is possibly due to the less favourable growing site. The New Zealand plants are usually found growing in forests.

Allen states that in the New Zealand plants the receptacle is not exerted beyond the indusium. In three Hartz Mountain fronds, the only ones with sori, the receptacles are clearly exerted to a length equalling, and in one case, exceeding the height of the sori.

Apart from the above I can find no difference between the New Zealand and Tasmanian specimens. It would be desirable to examine many more specimens than I possess including live plants.

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EDITORIAL WANDERINGS

GLAUCIUM FLAVUM

The Horned Poppy, Glaucium flavum, which can be found growing on the shingle beach near Birdlings Flat, proved to be a satisfactory garden plant for me this season. It opened its first saffron yellow blossom on the 15th October, 1976 and thereafter provided a succession of short lived blooms, almost daily, until Autumn, the last one opening on the 9th May, 1977. The grey foliage is most attractive and serves as a contrast to surrounding plants.

LEPTOSPERMUM SCOPARIUM

Bushes of Manaka are rare on the Port Hills. The only ones known to me are a dozen found on the 14th September, 1976 at Taukahara, an area of bush that is situated between Governors Bay and Rapaki. These were surrounded by a number of Leptospermum ericoides. They are difficult to see until one actually reaches them.