

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
<i>Senecio saxifragoides</i>	.	.	.	.	x	x	x	.	.	.
<i>Pachystegia insignis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	.	.	.
<i>Hebe pimelioides</i>	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	x	.	.
<i>Epilobium hectori</i>	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	x	x	.
<i>Helichrysum parvifolium</i>	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	x	x	.
<i>Pachystegia insig. v. minor?</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	x	.
<i>Cassinia fulvida</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	x	x
<i>Cotula perpusilla</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	x	x	x
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	x	x

MYOSOTIS OF BANKS PENINSULA

M.J.A. Simpson

In early December, 1976 Lucy Moore, Neville Moar and I accompanied classes Standards 3 and 4 from Lincoln Primary School on a nature study visit to Kaituna Reserve. Native forget-me-nots are not common on Banks Peninsula so that there was some excitement when the party studying plants of the forest floor found two patches of Myosotis spathulata var. spathulata in flower. Plants were growing on a gentle slope beside the track, not far from a stream that probably floods the area periodically. The small white flowers, each associated with a leaf, occur singly along a shaggy, lax flowering stem. Some flowers were four petalled, a feature noted by L.B. Moore on specimens of M. spathulata var. radicata held in the Botany Division herbarium.

M. spathulata is an insignificant plant, scarcely noticeable when not in flower and this may account for the scattered, though wide ranging, records for this species. Also, although described as a perennial herb, plants at Kaituna were shrivelled up and hard to find by mid-January when seeds were ripe: it could be of interest to determine the life span of individual plants. Apart from the type locality - Queen Charlotte or Dusky Sound - and a few localities in the North Island it is recorded only from Foxhill, near Nelson; Salt's Gully, Lyttelton; L. Manapouri and Chatham Is. However, E.F.L. Raoul collected specimens from "Presquîle de Banks" in 1843 (MEL 71186) and Mr. H. Talbot of Richmond, Nelson drew my attention a few years ago to a population in Snowdons Bush, Brightwater near Nelson. Here the habitat of lowland podocarp forest on alluvial river gravels is somewhat similar to that at Kaituna.

Other Myosotis species from Banks Peninsula are perhaps better known if still of rare occurrence. M. australis var. lytteltonensis has already been illustrated and discussed in this journal (No.1). On the peninsula it appears to be confined to areas around Lyttelton Harbour.

John Thompson has written about M. pygmaea var. pygmaea (Jl. No.9) and again in this number.

M. forsteri was recorded by Laing (1919) from the Akaroa-Flea Bay ridge and there are two specimens in the Melbourne herbarium from Banks Peninsula. (MEL 71186 Presquile de Banks, N.Z., M. Raoul 1843 and MEL 71231, Akaroa N.Z. ? North Head). Dr. L.B. Moore has confirmed the identification of these two specimens. Further records of this species from the peninsula would be welcomed.

M. sylvatica is naturalised on a ridge above Governors Bay (CHR 278455, D.R. Given and B.P.J. Molloy) and in Kaituna Reserve (CHR 149388, B.H. Macmillan et al.) and another exotic species, M. arvensis grows in depleted grassland on the Port Hills (CHR 85717, A.J. Healy).

---

MYOSOTIS PYGMAEA VAR. PYGMAEA

By John Thompson

In Journal No. 9 page 18 I mentioned finding Myosotis pygmaea var. pygmaea in the summit rocks of Mt. Herbert on 3rd December, 1975. Two other records of Banks Peninsula findings of this Myosotis have been brought to my notice by Dr. L.B. Moore and Mrs. M. Bulfin. Dr. B.P.J. Molloy sighted plants on Mt. Herbert summit rocks on 22nd January, 1976.

R.M. Laing mentions in his paper of 1914 that whilst Myosotis pygmaea in other areas grows down to sea level on Banks Peninsula it can only be found on hill tops doubtless due to the increased moisture available. There is a specimen, W 2652, gathered by R.M. Laing and A. Gray at Mt. Bossu dated January or July 1909 in which both flowers and seeds are observable.

I also noted in that Journal that the only records of Myosotis pygmaea var. pygmaea being found on the Port Hills appeared to be one by R.M. Laing on the "Hill tops above Governors Bay", undated and one by P.D. Shallard and N.T. Moar on 30th August, 1956" at the Sign of the Bellbird amongst rocks".

My wife and myself were fortunate in finding last season this Myosotis in three sites on the Port Hills. These were:

Site 1: At the base of rocks below the Sign of the Kiwi, near the I and Y Reserve on 25th August, 1976. There were 5 patches growing mostly with a small thallose liverwort, patches containing from 12 to 50 small plants, evidently seedlings; with no sign of mature plants. Only rosette leaves could be seen.