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HARRY HEAD

M.J.A. Simpson

In my short account of Myosotis on Banks Peninsula (Canty Bot. Soc. J. 10) I mentioned a specimen of M. forsteri in the Melbourne herbarium, MEL 71231 from "Akaroa, N.Z. ? North Head". I have since read in "Akaroa and Banks Peninsula, 1840-1940" (W.E.M. Jacobson) of a man known as Harry Head who lived on Banks Peninsula intermittently over a period of many years during the latter half of last century. His real name was said to be Alexander, "he was the son of a bookseller, an excellent mathematician and a fair Greek scholar besides understanding a good deal of botany. The latter was much cultivated by him during his sojourn on the Peninsula, and he was constantly in correspondence with Dr. Haast. .... He there (in Australia) formed an acquaintance with Baron von Mueller with whom he used to correspond upon botanical subjects".

It seems likely that the specimen I mentioned was collected by Harry Head and not from "North Head" as I suggested. My attempt to reproduce the signature on the label is shown here.

*Harry Head*

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#### A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRYOLOGY OF THE AHURIRI RESERVE

Max Visch

Tucked away on the west side of the Summit Road just beyond Coopers Knob lies the Ahuriri Bush Scenic Reserve. Although relatively small this reserve is one of the best remnants of the type of forest that in former times covered much of the Port Hills.

The Ahuriri Bush consists mainly of second growth broadleaved species such as Peppertree, Whiteywood, Tree Fuchsia, Ribbonwood, Broadleaf Kaikomako, a variety of Coprosmas and Lianas and an under-growth of ferns and tree seedlings. Emerging above the general bush canopy occur a scattering of old Matai and Kahikatea trees, survivors of a pre-European bush fire.

G.C. Kelly 1971 carried out a general survey of this reserve and his report which summarises the scientific, scenic and recreational values of this area he lists some 90 Flowering Plants, Conifers and Ferns. No mention was made of any bryophytes, presumably because of the time involved.

Yet in May this year when Alice Dumbleton, Jo Cartman and I paid a visit to the reserve primarily to study Coprosmas and other flowering plants, we were also much impressed by the variety and richness of mosses, hepatics and lichens that covered the bark and branches of nearly every tree, shrub and liana. Near the forest floor exposed tree roots, decaying wood of logs and fallen branches, moist boulders and slabs of rock provided a stable substrata for a variety of species. Except for Echinodium hispidum, Lembophyllum divulsum and Camptochaete spp. relatively few species were found to grow on earth on the forest floor.

Two further visits made by Alice and the author in June and early July greatly extended our knowledge of bryophytes of not only the Ahuriri Bush but also of the grassy, boulder strewn bank and cliff face along the Summit Road fronting the reserve. As the two areas have few species in common they have been listed separately.

Among the more interesting discoveries were the mosses Tetraphidopsis pusilla, Eriopus brownii in the bush reserve and Fissidens vittatus on the cliff face along the Summit Road.