

In seed ----- yes, but most had shed
 In bloom ----- no, but flower buds
 Height of adult ----- 12 to 27 feet
 Trunk diameter of adult --- 2½ to 5½ inches.

All adult trees had some pinnatifid leaves. A few trees had a few obovate leaves. The most interesting point of all was that there were two types of juvenile plants, and it would seem that they retain their two separate forms right through their various changes and stages, but I will let the specimens speak for themselves.

The plants were growing on good soil, with nikau and puriri, both lover. of good soil, on the same ridge. Height above sea-level was about 400 to 500 feet, and the situation warm, on the north-eastern side of the ridge.

In my quest for *P. virgatum* I also rescued from a derelict garden a large plant of *P. dallii*, got some of what I take to be *P. buchanani*, got further evidence of a new Hebe, and last, but by no means least, was directed where to find *Pittosporum matthewsii*, which I have since located and distributed. But that is another story!

M. Cameron Finlayson, Warkworth.

EXCURSION TO OTARI PLANT MUSEUM.

Saturday 9th October was grey and rain threatened, but eight faithful members met at the Otari Plant Museum, and some did some weeding on the rockery while awaiting late arrivals.

On the hillside facing the main gate there was a good collection of conifers, seventeen of the twenty indigenous species being seen. There were *Libocedrus plumosa* (*doniana*), and *P. bidwillii*; the three species

seven species of *Podocarpus*, including the comparatively rare *Podocarpus acutifolius* (needle-leaved totara) and *P. hallii* (thin-barked totara) which were growing beside the common *P. totara* and the subalpine *P. nivalis*. Of the four species of *Pacrydium* seen *D. kirkii* was very interesting - one tree was all juvenile except for a few leaves of adult growth growing from the branches of juvenile foliage. *Agathis australis* (kauri) was also there.

The different maies, *Olea montana*, *O. cunninghamii*, and *O. lanceolata* were growing beside one another, making comparison easy, and the different species of *Corokia* and *Hymenanthera* were also growing in close proximity.

We were all interested in the different stages of growth of *Pseudopanax crassifolium* var. *trifoliolatum*. There were examples of the young trees with single deflexed leaves and then trees with their leaves in threes instead of the customary single ones of that stage. It was noticed that the leaves were not all in threes, though they were the most common, some being in twos and fours, while at the end of each year's growth a whorl of single leaves was produced.

Some of us were puzzled by *Myrtus ralphii*, a series of hybrids between *M. bullata* and *M. obcordata*, and also by some stunted dense bushes of *Coprosma* species.

Among the herbs seen the most notable was *Australina novae-zelandiae*, which was growing on the banks near the stream.

Hilary Wilton.

*of *Phyllocladus*, *P. alpinus*, *P. glaucus*, and *P. trichomanoides*;