

- S. tetraptera. Not divaricating in young stages: pinnae large,  $2/3$  to  $1''$  long: flowers about  $2''$  with standard  $\frac{1}{2}$  shorter than the wings. East Cape to Ruahine Range.
- S. microphylla. Divaricating when young: pinnae  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1/3''$  long: flowers with standard as long as wings, about  $1\frac{1}{2}''$ . Throughout North and South Islands.
- S. chathamica. Not divaricating in young stages: described by Dr. Cockayne as "almost of adult 'microphylla' form from its commencement" and recorded by him for North Auckland as well as for the Chatham Islands.
- S. prostrata. Permanently divaricating: pinnae few,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1/6''$  long: flowers  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}''$  with standard brownish yellow and as long as the wings: seeds small, brown, a few in a short pod. Marlborough to South Canterbury.
- S. longicarinata. Not divaricating in young stages: pinnae many, small  $1/12$  to  $1/8''$  long: flowers about  $2''$  long, with standard shorter than wings and keel: pods  $2-5''$  long with a few pale brown seeds. Nelson.

#### PAEKAKARIKI HILL.

April the First played an unkind prank on members of the Botanical Society, when heavy rain on that morning falsely foreboded bad weather for their outing to Paekakariki. Those who made the trip met, by arrangement, five members of the N.Z. Native Flora Club, of Levin. As several of the Levin party are country members of the Botanical Society, they, in particular, welcomed the opportunity to take part in such an outing.

Under the leadership of Miss L.B. Moore, the party spent the first part of the day walking up the old hill road. The cliff cuttings had native rock plants wherever a crack gave roothold: Wahlenbergia gracilis, both the blue and the white flowered varieties, with the flowers not open till the afternoon, when the sun was bright: Senecio lautus, the small groundsel whose flowers were gaily golden whether the ray florets were present or absent: Vittadinia australis, its small bushes showing both the white daisy-flowers and the ripe seed-heads: neat little tufts of the greivish Ceranium microphyllum, its flowering time finished. Another Geranium found by the roadside was the bronze leaved G. sessiliflorum. The Levin visitors were particularly interested to have pointed out to them tufts of mosslike Scleranthus biflorus, and were surprised to learn that it is really a flowering plant of the carnation family. Of shrubs noticed, several specimens of Olearia paniculata, (Akiraho "Golden akeake") are worthy of mention, as the inflorescences were distinctly pink instead of the usual cream colour.

Motorists of the "Good Old Days", whose engines boiled on the hill road, will remember a useful trickle of clear water several chain from the turning point near the summit. The party used this to provide water for tea at lunch time, after which they returned to Paekakariki over the hills, starting up a sloping valley behind the road. Kohekohe occurs in large numbers, and was observed to have very prolific bud clusters, great bunches of green fruits from last season, and even some of the waxy cream flowers which are usually expected about June. A mahoe tree with grooved and knotted trunk measuring about three feet through aroused comment, also a sunlit clump of large leaved nettle with Red Admiral butterflies fluttering round; this being largely their food. The Levin visitors are more familiar with the smaller species of nettle which grows in the neighbourhood of Levin. Worthy of special mention was a veteran Shining Broadleaf, Criselinia lucida. The root which runs down to the ground had attained gigantic proportions, the upper portion, for a distance of about ten feet, being about ten or twelve inches in diameter, and having numerous horizontal rootlets clasping the supporting tree. The lower portion of the Broadleaf's spurious trunk divided into two, at a distance of about ten feet above the ground: and either of these divisions was large enough by itself, to be notable. It would appear that the region was once covered with heavy bush, as apart from the "giants" mentioned, large rata and matai stumps were seen.

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