

FROST INJURY AT "OTARI".

Some 30 species were noted as more or less severely injured by the sharp frosts of early June. The damage was most marked on plants in the open along the sides of the main stream, and especially on those facing the lawn and open ground below the Lady Blodisloe Lookout. Plants in shelter were very little damaged, even at low levels, while quite exposed plants at the higher levels were uninjured. Even along the more open paths frost injury soon became insignificant as one ascended. The effect therefore seems to have been one of cold-air drainage as well as of frost pure and simple. Rangiora, hangehange and mahoe were the most obvious sufferers, nearly all exposed plants being caught.

The full list is:

- A. FERNS: Asplenium bulbiferum (mouki), A. Lucidum (huruwhenua), Blechnum filiforme (panako), especially leaves of the juvenile form, Cyathea dealbata (ponga), C. medullaris (mamaku), Dryopteris glabella (smooth boss-fern), D. Pennigera (piupiu). The injury ranged from blackening of the tips to complete killing of the fronds. The tree-ferns suffered most.
- B. HERRACEOUS AND SEMI-WOODY PLANTS: Arthropodium cirratum (ronga-lily planted) and Jovellana sinclairii (native calceolaria). The leaves were killed and also the soft shoots.
- C. SHRUBS AND TREES. Ackama rosaeifolia (makamaka, planted), young leaves and shoots; Alectryon excelsum (titoki), slight to quite severe injury; Aristotelia serrata (makomako), slight to bad; Beilschmiedia tawa (tawa), exposed leaves whitened; Brachyglottis repanda (rangiora), leaves badly damaged and shrivelled; Coriaria sarmentosa (tutu), twigs prematurely defoliated and cut back; Corynocarpus laevigata (karaka), exposed leaves; Dodonaea viscosa (akeake, planted), leaves discoloured; Dysoxylum spectabile (kohokohe), exposed leaves on plants at low levels only; Entelea arborescens (whau, planted), leaves blackened; Fuchsia excorticata, twigs prematurely defoliated and cut back, but plants that had already lost their leaves appeared unaffected; Geniostoma ligustrifolium hangehange leaves blackened and drooping, twigs cut hard back; Leptospermum ericoides (kanuka), twigs cut back about an inch, giving a wind-bitten appearance (planted bushes); Leucopogon fasciculatus, as for kanuka; Meliccytus romiflorus (mahoe), shoots defoliated and cut back, some plants little affected, some badly; Metrosideros excolsa (pohutukawa), young specimens planted on exposed bank very badly cut back; M. lucida (southern rata), less injured than pohutukawa, but cut back somewhat (planted); Mycoporum laetum (ngalo), leaves discoloured, twigs cut back; Podocarpus nivalis (mountain totara) and P. totara, planted specimens as for kanuka; Solanum aviculare (poroporo), leaves blotched, twigs cut back.

E. H. Allan.

ORCHIDS, PLEASE!

Members able to collect during this spring are invited to prepare pressed specimens of orchids in order to help Mr. E. D. Hatch, a new country member who is particularly interested in this group. Pterostylis spp. (especially P. foliatus and P. venosa) are especially desired, and any or all species of Corysanthes; but any orchid material would be "more than welcome". Specimens might be brought to meetings, or posted direct to 64979 Cpl. E. D. Hatch, Quartermasters Section, Headquarters Staff, WAIKOURU. M. C.