

Each cell in a plant has particles that carry hereditary characters. If the cells do not divide properly at one stage, subsequent cells carry a multiplicity of these particles, and when a whole plant is composed of these cells it is said to be polyploid. They often show gigantism, and when they arise as sports they may be desirable for cultivation. Polyploids are probably common among garden plants, though they have not yet been exhaustively studied. These may account for the extraordinary range of form sometimes seen within one species, e.g. that containing both Brussels sprouts and spring cabbage.

Dr. Cone showed a series of slides of well-known gardens, both in New Zealand and abroad. The lively discussion covered several of the many topics the lecturer had touched upon, the question of weeds being perhaps the one most commented upon.

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AROUND THE SHORE TO SEATOUN.

On Saturday afternoon, September 2nd., about a dozen members, after meeting at Miramar Junction, walked round the coast from Lyall Bay to Seatoun. Two visitors from Hawkes Bay were particularly welcome additions to the party. The day was fine, after a spell of rain, but there was a cold wind.

On the stony beach at the eastern end of Lyall Bay, the introduced horned poppy, Glaucium flavum with its rough bluish-green leaves, was found to be extremely common. It is interesting to note that this plant is abundant on the northern coast-line of Cook Strait, but rather rare elsewhere in New Zealand. Other common plants here were the parsley-like Anium prostratum, the fleshy Senecio laetus, and the introduced Senecio elegans with gaudy magenta-coloured flowers. Mats of Raoulia australis were conspicuous on the stones.

While some members were inspecting a cave in a large rock and trying to identify the young ferns growing there, others collected plants of Waltonbergia gracilis, Scleranthus biflorus, Colobanthus sp. (probably C. melleoii) and Spergularia media from the side of the rock. One side was almost covered with the iceplant Mesembryanthemum australe.

The presence of rimu twigs in the water was an insoluble mystery to some until it was explained that they were really fronds of the remarkably similar Caulerpa brownii, a green alga growing quite commonly about low tide level.

Between the road and the tidal rocks there was a salt marsh with its characteristic plants, the glassy Salicornia australis, yellow buttons of Cotula coronopifolia, and a carpet of Selliera radicans and Samolus repens.

Nearer to Seatoun, the effect of wind on the habit of plants was clearly seen. Alongside the road dense cushions of Hymenanthera crassifolia sometimes interlaced with Muehlenbeckia complexa formed an almost continuous wall. Below the road Olearia solandri and Placiantinus divaricatus typified the divaricating habit and formed low shrubs. In sheltered spots the shape of the latter was quite different, the leaves much bigger, and a few sprigs with dainty star-like flowers could be found. The polyorphic Fimbrilia prostrata appeared in several different forms. Cassinia leptophylla, Malopogon erecta and low-growing Coprosma propinqua were also found in this area.

Among the ferns noted were the rough Polystichum richardi, Cyclophorus serpens, Polypodium diversifolium and a number of divergent forms, all apparently included under Asplenium flaccidum. The true New Zealand flax Linum monogynum was abundant, and leaves, but no open flowers, of the orchid Thelymitra longifolia were seen.

Lobelia anceps was found growing by a small stream.

On the hillside several plants of the remarkable Aciphylla squarrosa stood out like sentinels.

The last few members to reach Seatoun finished a very pleasant afternoon with a brief visit to Mrs. Samson's garden.

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G. S. Aitken.