

clean camp, and return to record another day of pure delight, to sit by the roaring fire and recall what each had seen and thought. The next day gloomed as we approached Wellington, and at the station a shower of hail greeted me.
H.H.Allan.

(Taumangi is Cyathodes acerosa; koku-hu is Pittosporum tenuifolium; rororo is Olea montana. Corysanthos triloba displayed at the June meeting was labelled C. oblonga in error.)

PLANT COLLECTING DO'S AND DONT'S.

We are all proud of our New Zealand vegetation for the many beauties it presents in single species of outstanding appearance and in a plant cover of great beauty for all parts of the country. We are proud, too, that so many New Zealand plants are true New Zealanders, found nowhere else. Three quarters of our flora is endemic. The great variability of many species, the common occurrence of 'juvenile' forms and widespread natural hybrids are features of especial interest, possibly related to the high percentage of endemics. Certainly we have a flora worth knowing, and one to stimulate our botanical studies.

One good way to get to know our plants is to grow them. By watching them and caring for them in a garden we may find out quite a lot from them; but we must remember that the best place to study plants is in their own environment. We can hope to unravel some of the problems of our native plants only by studying native vegetation, where many plants grow together in a delicately balanced community. Collecting for gardens therefore, must be done with the utmost caution. We must be vigilant to maintain what little natural vegetation is left. We want to study it as it is, ourselves, and those who come after us will certainly also want to see it.

In order to preserve the bush that we know the following rules should be noted: -

Collect no plant unless you are sure that you can grow it. Take nothing that has a chance of succeeding where it is.

Take nothing that can be got from another garden or nursery. Best of all, raise your own plants from seed or cuttings.

If you do collect in the bush take only very small plants, and immediately they are pulled up tie some moss or damp leaves firmly round the roots. Look especially along the track or roadside. The slashing and tramping that keeps the track clear opens a space of bare soil to the light and here many seedlings come up. Those may not mature if the track is kept open, so they may as well be removed to a garden. Similarly, on the roadside where cuttings and drains are regularly cleaned many seedlings are found and may be rescued before the roadman gets them. A few yards of road is a more fertile ground for seedlings than a mile of dense bush. Along a river-bank also, many seedlings will be found on the bush borders which are swept clean by floods.

Small plants from one to six inches high are the only ones worth taking. Larger plants will probably fail and should be left where they are. It is a dismal sight to see folk despoiling the bush of plants which would have grown well if left in their proper place and which will likely die in a foreign garden. Too often, people who start with enthusiasm for the native vegetation get collectors' mania and become dangerous enemies of that which they pretend to love. Before you collect anything in the bush hold your trowel and consider if it is really legitimate to take the find home.

Greta B. Cone.

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MEETING PILULARIA NOVAE-ZEALANDIAE.

Travellers' Valley must have been well-known in the eighties when it lay on the main land route from Nelson and Marlborough to Canterbury. Today the cattle man does some mustering thereabouts, a deer culler looks the place over perhaps every couple of years, and an occasional trumper trudges through. Only very rarely does a botanist get to this remote corner where W.T.L.Travers long ago did the pioneer collecting.

An almost imperceptible watershed separates the upper Wairau River a little above its gorge, from the series of tarns that lead to Travellers' Valley.