

Next day was one of creeping up and around bluffs, interspersed with travel on river flats, boulder strands, rocky river edges. As to be expected in Westland the South Island rata was abundant and often in flower. Ascarina lucida, a handsome dark shining leaved tree, and * Quintinia acutifolia, both well known in Westland forest were there too.

It was interesting to find a patch of Forstera tenella growing on the clay slip on a bluff at only 700 ft. above sea level.

As we waited for the bus at the roadside we found Olearia macrodonta growing plentifully.

R. MASON.

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THE NEW GOLDEN HIND EXPEDITION TO THE FIORDS.

Described by Dr. Allan on April 15th.

Carrying 7 scientists and its own crew of 8 men, the Public Works Department ketch "New Golden Hind" left Bluff on January 25th last. The expedition was to explore the south-west sounds as far north as Doubtful Sound, with the special object of deciding whether the region held significant quantities of uranium ores which are being sought in all parts of the world as sources of atomic energy. The party included geologists, geophysicists, and one soil man. As the botanist, Dr. Allan thoroughly appreciated the opportunity of collecting where few plant records have been made since those of the Forsters and Sparrmann in 1773, Menzies in 1791, and Lyall in 1850.

At Bluff, with rata in full bloom, the oddest botanical find was a lancewood bearing an apical inflorescence while still in the unbranched, long-leaved, juvenile stage.

By daybreak on 26th, the Solanders were astern, and Puysegur Point abeam, and it was still early when the ship anchored in Revolver Cove, Preservation Inlet. Small boats with outboard motors took parties in different directions, and the botanist was soon amongst Olearia operina and Dracophyllum menziesii. Next day, landings were made in Useless Bay and Isthmus Sound. A typical sequence of vegetation as seen above the shelving pebbly beach near the Narrows was: Samolus, a girdle of Leptocarpus simplex, narrow belt of manuka and Coprosma propinqua with a little O. operina, backed by forest of rimu and beech, with a tremendous wealth of bryophytes, even almost excluding ferns on the ground. The bush line is at about 2000 feet, with alpine plants above. From the heights came Curisia and Forsteras, and an apparently new Celmisia, quite as large and attractive as C. petiolata. On Chalky Island grows Urtica australis, a large-leaved nettle not previously known except on the Chathams, Auckland and Campbell Islands, and some islets in Foveaux Strait.

At Northport in Preservation Inlet is a fishing station using the wreck of the "Stella" as a jetty. On the nearby Little Is. characteristic plants are: Nothofagus cliffortioides, Dacrydium intermedium, rimu, rata, miro, and kamahi, with Gahnia procera in the undergrowth.

Seaweeds were photographed and collected, one of the interesting results being that Macrocystis (the big bladder-kelp) is recorded in all the sounds visited, in considerable quantity until towards the head of each the water becomes too fresh. With a dredge samples were obtained from the bottom of the fiords, and these yielded both algae and molluscs of interest.

Drying papers for the plant presses became a problem as numbers of specimens increased, until a small gas stove was requisitioned. This proved ideal, except for rather odd smells given off!

Dusky Sound was reached on February 6th, and the ship anchored in Cascade Cove. Here, at the head of the cove were Myrtus pedunculata in flower, Suttonia divaricata, Pimelea gnidia, and Ascarina lucida. While the ship travelled to Facile Harbour, a party visited the Five Finger Peninsula and Wooden Cove, and the open coastal rocks where Anisotome lyallii was abundant along with Gentiana saxosa. At Facile Harbour a knoll burnt some years ago now carries a Dracophyllum longifolium thicket, from which probably a kamahi forest will emerge.

The ship proceeded through Acheron Passage to Wet Jacket Arm, where Epilobium matthewsii, Forsteras, Curisias, Celmisias, and Cordyline indivisa all occur near sea level.

In Breaksea Sound, Breaksea Is., Disappointment Is., Gilbert Is. and Sunday Cove were visited. Vancouver Arm is a narrower sound with many hanging valleys. One day was spent in Dagg's Sound.

In Doubtful Sound, at Snug Cove girdles of Leptocarpus and Poa oraria were well marked; above them is thickest Carmichaelia arborea, with O. operina, Coprosma propinqua, Hebe elliptica, Pimelea gnidia, backed by Griselinia littoralis and Nothopanax colensoi, then beech forest.

Stops were made at Precipice Cove, Haulashore Cove, Hall's Arm, and Deep Cove before the ship left on February 20th on the homeward journey direct to Wellington.

In general the forest was much less sombre than one had been led to expect, the dark beeches being relieved by the bronze of rimu and silver pine. Southern rata, in full flower, was dotted about, and gleamed from the rocky steep, but did not form pure associations as seen in northern Westland.

Slides illustrated the talk, and showed how attractive is this little-known part of New Zealand.

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Dr. Margaret Mayer, the new Secretary of the Society, has recently been appointed Lecturer in Botany at Victoria University College.

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Dr. I. V. Newman, President of our Society, is attending the meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science in Adelaide in the last week in August.

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VERNACULAR NAMES OF NEW ZEALAND PLANTS.

Although it is essential for plants to have botanical names, vernacular names are for many purposes useful and desirable for botanists as well as for non-botanists. Who would not rather ask for a piece of "mountain mop" for kindling than for "Dracophyllum traversii"? In any case, it is well to know what popular names there are.

In volumes 56 and 57 of the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute there is a list, compiled by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, of the popular names which had appeared in print. It will be seen that some plants have no popular name, or perhaps only a clumsy one which has never been generally used, or a little known Maori name of difficult appearance.

There are some popular names, including those of introduced species, which seem to have hitherto escaped print and are only known locally. It would seem worthwhile for members to collect any they know and to record them from time to time in the Bulletin. Here are some to start with: - Uncinia australis, hook grass; Earina spp., bamboo orchid; Cordyline indivisa, Waimarino cabbage tree; Dracophyllum traversii, candelabra tree, mountain mop, pineapple tree; Hypericum perforatum, Mother Cameron's wood (Central Otago); Leycestria formosa, whistlewood pagoda plant, (both in the Hutt Valley), Japanese spiderwort, twitch elder.

R. Mason.

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