

ORCHIDS. Frasophyllum colonsoi, Microtis unifolia, Corysanthes macrantha, Chiloglottis cornuta.

HERBS. Drosera binata, Epilobium fontana, E.chlorneofolium, Halogaris micrantha, Contella uniflora, Nortera depressa, Pratia angulata, Lagenophora pumila.

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AT YORK BAY.

February 1st was a perfect summer's day, and some dozen members gathered at York Bay at the invitation of Mrs. Alfred Atkinson. The morning was spent in the garden and plantation established by the late Mr. Alfred Atkinson. What was twenty years ago a waste gully full of gorse is now a pleasant place indeed, with terraced gardens and shrubs on the sunnier side and a fine bush of selected native trees on the steeper slope across the little stream.

In a single tour round the winding paths some 140 species were noted and undoubtedly many more would be found in an intensive search. Senecio Alfred Atkinson, a hybrid that was "born" in this garden, had almost finished flowering, but we saw the two parents growing side by side, S. hectori with big woolly leaves and white-rayed flowers and S. perdicoides with small crinkly leaves and yellow ray florets. Elatostemma on the shady flat beside the creek looked completely at home and ready to spread further. Rhabdanthus also showed to perfection here, a lax open bush some five feet tall hung with hundreds of orange ball-shaped flowers. The bigger leaved and the yellow flowered forms both were thriving nearby. Similar conditions also suited Senecio turneri a showy herbaceous groundsel with cordate leaves 8 inches across. Beeches, kowhais and lancewoods (including Pseudopanax chathamicum), Coprosmas, Pittosporums, and a host of other trees formed the main shade and in more open places were noted Dracophyllum recurvatum, mairehau, Libocedrus doniana, Libertia ixioides, Astelia nervosa, and many more. A plant of Cyathodes acerosa near a sunny path had been neatly trimmed and showed what a pretty close-growing hedge plant this species would make.

Tea provided by our kind hostess accompanied lunch on the lawn overlooking the bay.

In the afternoon we passed across into the original beech forest that clothes the steep slopes at the head of York Bay, the property of Mrs. Esmond Atkinson. Among many things pleasant and interesting mention might be made of two. First an extensive bank of Erina autumnalis showing old fruit and buds. Nearby some observant person spotted what was new to most of us, a foot-high plant of Metrosideros robusta, perched far up on a beech limb and sending down pink-tipped roots towards the soil - the fore-runners presumably of the great woody structures that should later coalesce to form the trunk of the old rata tree. The fate of this youngster seemed uncertain as the lower part of the supporting bough bent away suddenly and the slender rata roots, growing still vertically downwards, hung free in the air with still twenty feet or so to grow before making contact with the ground. Its further progress would be worth watching.

The afternoon finished with expressions of gratitude to Mrs. Atkinson and Miss E. Moore who had made the arrangements to give us such a pleasant and profitable day.

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VISIT TO SOUTH KARORI.

A pleasant Saturday afternoon, September 7th, was spent by some fifteen members strolling along the South Karori road, noting the remnants of the original forest, the changes made by man, and the efforts of native plants to return. Time did not allow of visiting the steeper slopes, running down to the sea, where Senecio lagopus, Linum monogynum, Aciphylla squarrosa, Angelica geniculata, and other interesting species still find a refuge. Among the woods, the North American Montia perfoliata, a rare weed in New Zealand, was new to many of us. The peltate leaves give it a very different appearance from our own pleasant Montia australasica. Later a flowering specimen, the racemes of small white flowers appearing to arise directly from the stem-leaves, was shown at an evening meeting.

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