

Porokaiwhiri (*Hedycarya arborea*) is fairly plentiful in this bush. The tree is dioecious - one specimen was laden with blossom sprays with the drooping plate-shaped male flowers, while others were well covered with green berries just beginning to colour. The tree has an extensive range - from the Three Kings to Milford Sound. Endemic in New Zealand, there are other representatives of the genus in Australia and some of the Pacific Islands.

Out from the bush we did full justice to the cakes so generously provided by our host and hostess.

M.M.J.

TINAKORI HILL.

On the afternoon of Saturday August 3rd, a party of about twenty members and friends under the leadership of Miss Mathieson took a walk over Tinakori Hill. We started up among some older exotic trees under which is growing now an assortment of native shrubs and ferns. Fungi were still conspicuous; a number of fragile agarics were collected including large tiers of Hypholoma fasciculare from some old posts. Brilliant brackets of Trametes cinnabarina decorated several old stumps. In the deep, dry litter of the pine trees near the top there were here and there masses of Thelephora terrestris binding the needles together and several groups of toadstools pushing up their umbrellas. On the summit we looked out on the glassy harbour below and the colourful hills around and then back to the ugly blackness and charred sticks of the fire which swept across here some six months earlier. Already in the fertile ash green weeds were springing and gorse was shooting strongly from the old roots. On the northern slope of the hill we explored a cave thickly clad inside with a growth solely of Asplenium hookerianum and on the blackened rocks at its entrance innumerable sporelings and prothalli apparently also all of the one species. Some distance further down the hillside we scrambled through a small patch of scrubby bush in a gully. A particularly fine fern, Asplenium colensoi was quite common there although cattle had free access. We made our way back by the Wadestown tram terminus.

Greta B. Cone.

EXCURSION TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, SILVERSTREAM, 5TH OCTOBER.

The morning was mainly spent examining the clay banks of the roadside cuttings from Silverstream to the road summit. Prosera auriculata was in flower and there were many fertile liverworts in the damper places and many ground orchids were just shooting. An uncommon fern, apparently Blechnum vulcanicum, was found. Pittosporum tenuifolium male and female, and some of the beeches were in flower.

In the afternoon, the party wandered along the bush road of the Blue Mountains. A specimen of tree fern uncommon in Wellington, Dicksonia fibrosa, was seen and profusely flowering specimens of Melicytus lanceolata attracted attention. Both the native and introduced bitter cresses, Cardamine heterophylla and Chirsuta were growing together by the roadside and the differences between them could easily be seen.

R. Mason.

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EDITOR:

MISS L. B. MOORE.

HON. SECRETARY:

DR. MARGARET MAYER,
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
WELLINGTON.