

of the bronze Coprosma rugosa. In the first creek flowing into the river - it turned out to be Bray Creek - two trees of the Pittosporum were met with at once. They were growing in an exposed position and looked rather hoary and battered, like old olive trees, with a multiplicity of stems - eight in one case. The larger tree was perhaps 12' high and 20' across. In both trees many dead branches indicated some kind of borer. A good deal of bark was missing - presumably eaten by deer. One tree bore immature fruit, arranged in umbels, and the remains of the previous year's fruit, in the form of cone-shaped masses of seed from which the capsule-valves had fallen. The seeds were closely packed despite very scanty mucilage. A peculiar feature of the leaves was the absence of the characteristic aromatic scent of the genus. No young plants could be found other than a few seedlings, with two cotyledons only, under the fruiting tree. A deer hunt interrupted the full investigation of this creek but there appeared to be no further trees. A block of heavy bush further up Snow's River was next visited. Here were numbers of sad-looking Suttonia divaricate, an unfamiliar form of Pittosporum rigidum, and the semi-prostrate Pseudowintera traversii. The position of this bush disposed of the identity of the creeks on the maps. Specimen Creek was therefore approached with confidence - since all the books said the Pittosporum occurred there. Nine trees were met with. These were younger than the trees in Bray Creek and since they were growing in thick bush had not the spreading habit of the older trees. One with a single stem appeared to be 20' in height. No young plants could be found. In both Specimen Creek and Bray Creek conditions appeared unfavourable for the germination of seed which, before it could get a footing, would be washed away among the boulders of the stream.

N.Potts.

NOTE: The writer's thanks are due to Mr. W.J. Jamieson of Collingwood for much kindly help and to Miss L. Moore for the identification of plants. He will be happy to give to members more detailed information as to the route to Boulder Lake. The distance from the swing bridge over the Aorere River was said to be 15 miles and this takes 12 hours. Other trees of P. dallii are reputed to occur in Snow's River.

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THE RINGS OF A NIKAU PALM.

It is usual to estimate the age of a nikau palm by counting the number of rings encircling the trunk - one ring for every year of growth.

Twenty years ago a tiny nikau seedling was taken from the bush and planted in a large flower pot. Six years later, the palm, a sturdy specimen, was transplanted into an open but sheltered garden at Eastbourne.

The leaf that dropped early in December 1945 left a scar that formed the first ring a few inches from the ground. The cluster bud that had been hidden at the leaf base soon expanded - the large triangular spathe split and fell off, and we had the unusual sight of a nikau inflorescence at ground level.

Late in January another leaf fell, and again a leaf scar, this one two inches above the first. There was also another cluster bud that blossomed freely.

Before the year was out two more leaves had fallen - one in early winter and the other in late spring (the cluster bud exposed in winter failing to open). This made four rings for the year with a growth of eight inches in height.

It would be interesting if observations could be taken of a nikau palm growing in the shade of the forest - one might then find out whether the one ring one year of growth theory holds good when the palm is growing in its natural habitat.

M.M. Johnson,