

In Lythraceae the genus Sonneratia is remarkable for large pneumatophores, attaining sometimes a length of nearly a couple of feet, and two inches diameter at the base.

In Verbenaceae is Avicennia, the only mangrove tree represented in New Zealand. The pneumatophores are comparatively small and slender, but very numerous. These plants are continuously cut for tanning. The two species are both deciduous or partly so in Bombay. The seedlings have well developed cotyledons before they leave the "cradle", and falling during the rains, are tossed up along the shores.

In Myrsinaceae is Aegiceras majus, in which the seedling often hangs suspended from the fruit until it drops or is blown off. They are carried about the swamp by tides.

In Acanthaceae, Acanthus ilicifolius has prickly leaves, showy blue flowers and fruits that float.

Besides flowering plants there are some algae typical of mangrove swamps and during cold weather the Bombay shores are beautifully draped in various forms.

. . . . .  
HUTT FERNERY AND JUBILEE PARK JUNE 5TH. 1948.

Ferns! There seemed to be thousands of them when we entered the fernery under the guidance of Mr. Rawson and Mr. Snow, their guardian. And although there may not have been thousands of plants growing there in moist profusion, we were told certainly that there were 23 genera, 76 species, and 9 varieties, which seemed no mean number. The first to meet the eye was Todea barbara from North Auckland. Leptopteris hymenophylloides and L. superba (Prince of Wales fern) were there in abundance; that L. superba grows slowly was shown by one small plant, three years old, which had about fifteen fronds, none more than six inches long. Marattia fraxinea (king fern) made an outstanding show. Tree ferns were represented by the ponga (Cyathea dealbata), soft Hemitelia smithii, harsh Dicksonia squarrosa, and a young Dicksonia fibrosa with its fibrous trunk a few inches high. Other ferns noticed were Hymenophyllum australe with its frilled wing, H. pulcherrimum with flat wing, Trichomanes reniforme (kidney fern), Polystichum richardi, Dryopteris pennigera and Blechnum lanceolatum. Reminiscent of a visit to bush near Levin were Blechnum patersoni and a handsome bank of parataniwha (Elatostema rugosum).

From the fernery we climbed the hill where many native shrubs had been planted on the grassy slopes. Especially noticeable was the great growth of mamaku (Cyathea medullaris) in the gullies, where presumably the bush had been burnt and the mamaku had been one of the few surviving species. Abundant seeds were seen on tarata (Pittosporum eugenioides) and other species of Pittosporum.

Leaving the magnificent view of harbour and valley we turned back to the bush where the fungus lovers found much of interest; a scarlet puff ball, little chrome yellow toadstools, the "elbow-bending" fungus, and the bird's nest fungus, some specimens with the lid still on, and others with the lid off showing the spore-bearing bodies lying like miniature eggs in a nest. Other plants of interest were a very large titoki (Alectryon excelsum), a kawakawa (Macropiper excelsum) showing its flowering spikes, the bright orange capsules of native passion fruit (Tetrapathaea tetrandra) gleaming against their dark glossy background, and the beautiful wax-like flowers, greenish white, of the kohekohe (Dysoxylum spectabile).

I. M. Morice.