

gonifolius shows great variation in leaf size and shape and the related *P. suboblongus* seems to do likewise.

P. pectinatus, L., (the New Zealand form), is recorded from several new stations: Lake Kaikokopu (Huniu, Himitungi), R. Mason, 12/3/48; Lake Koputara, R. Mason, 12/3/48; Castlepoint, V. D. Zotov! 24/3/45, R. Mason 6/5/48; Lake Ellesmere, R. A. Wilson! 1931, (Lakeside) R. Mason 19/2/48, (Kaituna) 20/2/48; Washdyke, R. Mason, 16/2/48, May 1948, 26/2/49; Lake Wainono, R. Mason, 26/4/48.

RUPPIACEAE

W. A. Setchell has shown (Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. 4th series 25: 18) that Linnaeus's two species, *Ruppia maritima* and *R. spiralis*, have been confused by many later writers. Our New Zealand plant, with elongated spiral peduncles, is *R. spiralis*, L.

(Some other new records of water plants will be published in Bulletin No. 22.—Ed.)

Some Australian Plants

To an audience of about thirty members at the meeting on June 20, Dr. J. T. Salmon apologized for changing the subject of his talk from plants of New Zealand to those of Australia. He said that not being a botanist he had felt diffident about talking to botanists on plants of their own country, but now that he saw Professor Gordon among his listeners he wondered if he should not have stuck to New Zealand plants after all. However, there was no such doubt in the minds of his audience when they saw his glorious coloured slides of Australian flowers. The Geraldton wax plant, kangaroo paws, yellow and red gums some with flowers as big as saucers, a red bottle-brush, dwarf banksia, cycads and grass-trees are a few of the many which delighted the eye. Wattles were represented by the brilliant yellow South Australian wattle and an enormous golden wattle tree. The flame tree against a blue sky made a very pleasing picture. Photographs of the Sydney Botanical Gardens showed a great massing of colour in the beds. Of these the show of azaleas was particularly outstanding. Too soon the delight of form and colour came to an end, but leaving us with the knowledge if we did not have it already that Dr. Salmon is not only a scientist but an artist also. —I.M.M.

Vegetation and Man

On March 21, Miss J. Sansom, who is in New Zealand on a Goldsmiths' Scholarship and is at present studying the ecology of some of the beech forest on the eastern side of the Rimutakas, spoke of the influence of man on the vegetation of Great Britain. Her detailed summary of the changes that have taken place from about 9000 B.C. up to recent times was both interesting and instructive. She pointed