

Ranunculus lyallii: a few small plants of this species occur on the upper, shaded slopes of Trig K, Woolshed Ridge, Lake Sumner. This is the furthest north this species has been reported east of the Main Divide.

Pleurosorus rutifolius: an excellent population of this sparsely distributed fern occurs on the sunny slopes of Mt. Palm, Lowry Peaks Range, North Canterbury. This fern is growing vigorously in "soily" cracks and fissures among rock outcrops, alongside others like Asplenium flabellifolium, Pellaea falcata, Cheilanthes sieberi and C. distans. Interestingly, these species seem to have withstood the effects of herbicide whereas most woody plants on the same site have been killed.

Notospartium torulosum: After a recent visit to Mount Peel with Austen Deans I am pleased to report that a substantial population of this rare Canterbury broom grows in advanced second growth scrub in the upper reaches of the Lynn Stream, thus supplementing the plants found in the gorges lower down and reported earlier (Molloy 1978).

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COPROSMA REPENS : A NEW CANTERBURY LOCALITY

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The southern limit of taupata (Coprosma repens) as it occurs naturally is given in Allan's Flora as latitude 41° 30'S, that is near Blenheim. It is however known as a hedge plant or ornamental shrub at Sumner and thereabouts, something like 150 miles further south, and in 1978 was recorded as establishing as a garden escape at Gore Bay, some 95 miles south of its natural limit. Not surprisingly therefore it is found, that given a chance, it can establish as an adventive on the South Brighton Spit. There, a vacant sandy section on the east side of Rockinghorse Road, south of Tern Street is covered mostly in coarse grass but with some patches of flax and a few scattered trees and shrubs. Beneath most of the trees are specimens of taupata, anything from merely a few seedlings to a multitude of seedlings, young plants and several shrubs up to 12ft high. Taupata occurs under four macrocarpas along the road boundary and two others, under two pines (Pinus radiata), and under a clump of elder (Sambucus nigra).

As the seeds are spread by birds it is understandable that the

plants occur only under trees or shrubs where birds are likely to perch, and in anycase the grass is too tall to give taupata seedlings much chance. It is not so clear, however, why the plants grow only under trees where the branches grow low to the ground, forming a shady shelter, and not under the few where the lowest branches are well above the ground.

It may be mentioned that since the publication of Allan's Flora the known distribution has also been extended down the west coast of the South Island. Colin Burrows has recorded it for Twelve Mile Bluff, some nine miles north of Greymouth and Peter Wardle lists it as occurring in coastal scrub on Hokitika Beach, though he regards it as probably planted there. The Hokitika locality is not quite as far south as Gore Bay.

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NATIVE ORCHIDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PORT HILLS

John Thompson

This is an account of the native orchids seen on the Port Hills during the 1979-80 season. As the orchid flowering season is a comparatively short one there were considerable areas we were unable to examine. No doubt additional orchids can be found in some of these areas.

Orchids were looked for in localities with the following results:-

Gullies near Lighthouse:

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| Thelymitra longifolia | On ledges on cliffs |
| Microtis unifolia | On grass areas below cliffs |
| Earina autumnalis | On ledges on top of cliffs |