

be distinguished by looking at the top edge of the leaf sheath. This is thickened, usually truncate, and bears a distinct sharp point. In both E. gracilis and E. pusilla this top edge is oblique, is scarcely thickened, if at all, and bears no sharp point.

E. pusilla has more slender rhizomes and culms than E. gracilis. To be quite certain of your identification you must open the inflorescence. In E. gracilis will be found 4 to 8 slender hypogynous bristles which, as the name implies, are borne below the ovary. I have not seen hypogynous bristles in E. pusilla though 2 to 3 may be found.

Eleocharis gracilis can be seen locally in Chaney forest, Bottle Lake Park and in the swamps of Mt. Herbert. Considerable areas were noticed during the Society's camp at Cass growing happily in the very wet areas on the southern shores of Lake Sarah.

THE RIGHT TIME TO TAKE CUTTINGS

Jessie McCully

I say when you can get them. My mother grew her new roses from the cuttings off the flowers she was given. I follow suit. My cutting bed on the south side of the house was most successful but now I have to use containers and I use an ordinary potting mix. Keep the mix damp not wet and use a glass or plastic jar to keep the cutting from drying out while the new roots form. This will take up to a year with some plants. Do not disturb until signs of roots or new growth are apparent. If I were a commercial grower it would pay to keep notes as certain plants are very definite in their habits of growth.

The Commercial Grower takes Tip Cuttings (in sand with underground heat) but I like the bigger ones in fact with some plants as thick as a pencil. Most garden books have a chapter on cuttings and they are well worth reading.

FURTHER SIGNS OF THINGS PAST

R. Mason

In last years Journal it was told how at the 10 foot contour line on Hudson Road there are still growing a number of plants that indicate the old high water level of the brackish Lake Ellesmere. During a stop at that locality in the course of the Society's February field trip to the Lake in the vicinity of the Greenpark Huts a further three plants were found that are indicative of saline conditions: the natives Salicornia australis and Triglochin

striatum, and the adventive barley grass, Hordeum hystrix.

REFERENCE

- Mason, R. 1979: Signs of Things Past. Canterbury Botanical Society Journal No.13.
pp 31-32.
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PAESIA SCABERULA ON THE PORT HILLS

John Lovis

In his recent article on the ferns of the Port Hills, John Thompson (1979) adds Paesia scaberula to the known flora on the basis of a single station in Gibraltar Bush.

By chance, I have seen this fern in two additional sites this year. Firstly, as a very small plant in a south facing rock crevice in the devastated plantation towards the head of the Victoria Park valley. In view of this fern's dislike of deep shade, it is possible that it arrived in this station subsequent to the Big Blow of 1975.

The second station is at the base of a roadside bank bordering the Summit Road behind Cass Peak, where two colonies, bearing twenty fronds apiece, grow within a few yards of each other. This site is also notable for the presence of Lycopodium volubile at the top of the bank.

A tiny plant of Blechnum vulcanicum was also noticed here, but on the same excursion another much larger plant of this same species (previously recorded from the Port Hills only from the Lyttelton Reserve) was seen on the roadside bank in a very exposed situation north of Gibraltar Rock. This all seems to bear out, as was well-known to Leonard Cockayne, that a botanist on a bicycle sees more than the botanical motorist.

REFERENCE

- Thompson, J. 1979: Ferns of the Christchurch Port Hills. Canterbury Botanical Society Journal 13: 20-25.
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