

Allison, that he should take up this neglected group, and said she could work at them too, as long as mosses still received her 'full care and attention'. In the end Allison concentrated more on the mosses and it was Mrs. Hodgson who became the authority on liverworts. In 1930 she began corresponding with various authorities and went on to write, or be associated with, 28 papers on liverworts, the last in 1974. Among these is her description of a new family, the Phyllothalliaceae.

In addition to being a wife, mother and research worker, Dr. Hodgson was a keen horticulturalist. She began exhibiting in the first spring show of the Wairoa District Horticultural Society in 1923, and in 1977 was elected a Life Member for outstanding service to the community in the field of horticulture. She was also active in the Wairoa section of the Royal N.Z. Forest and Bird Protection Society. Her dedication is an example to us all.

Dr. Eric Godley,
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6th June, 1984.

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WAIMAIRI WALKWAY

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When we set out to walk the Waimairi Walkway on the 23rd March 1983 shortly after it had been officially opened, we did not expect to find native plants of special interest. We were, however, pleasantly surprised to notice two plants that were new to us, Carex flaviformis and Scirpus sulcatus var. distigmatosus. For our added enjoyment were numerous patches of the blue flowered Urticularia monanthos and more flowers of Limosella lineata than we had previously seen during the whole of our plant observing years.

It is a pleasant track. Commencing at the Groynes, it follows the banks of the South Branch of the Waimakariri River and then runs across farm land to Belfast. Since our first walk a new track has been formed from the Belfast end back towards the Groynes.

The most interesting portions botanically are the swamps at the Twin Culverts and the banks of the river, especially the stretch where the track follows close to the river and is distinguished by having a large willow log partly submerged in the water.

We have made several more trips since then in order to compile a comprehensive list of the native plants that one can see walking the track.

Here is the list :-

Carex coriacea	Juncus australis
C. flagellifera	J. caespiticus
C. flaviformis	J. distegus
C. secta var. secta	J. gregiflorus
C. virgata	J. sarophorus
Cordyline australis	Lemna minor
Eleocharis acuta	Microtis unifolia
E. gracilis	Potamogeton cheesemanii
(near lake at Groynes)	Scirpus sulcatus var. distigmatus
Azolla rubra	Hypolepis tenuifolia
Blechnum capense	Limosella lineata
Coprosma robusta	Myriophyllum propinquum
Cotula coronopifolia	Polystichum vestitum
Dicksonia fibrosa	Pratia angulata
Gnaphalium limosum	Pteridium aquilinum var. esculentum
Hebe salicifolia	
Histiopteris incisa	Urticularia monanthos

What is surprising is that in such a comparatively short list there are a number of species that are uncommon in the Christchurch District and have not been recorded recently. It is interesting to speculate why they should be found on the Walkway with most of them on limited stretches of the track.

The following notes give some brief details of these plants:

Carex flaviformis: (sedge yellow) Can be seen near the Twin Culverts and also further along the river bank near the willow log. A very large patch grows on the other side of the fence on the far side of the lake at the Groynes.

The Botany Division have only two gatherings of this plant from Canterbury in their Herbarium!

1. Waimakariri River between Harewood and Belfast 1958 and 1959.
2. Lake Ellesmere 1966.

Plants were beginning to flower on 23rd September, 1983, fruits were forming by 23rd November, 1983. Fruits were still unripened on 1st March, 1984. The fat yellow fruits and the broad, yellowish leaves make this a handsome plant.

Scirpus sulcatus var. distigmatosus: (rush grooved with two stigma)
The only Christchurch gathering held at Botany Division is one by D. Petrie dated June 1893 at Styx. Ninety years ago. Other Canterbury gatherings are Wakanui Beach, Ashburton on 3rd April 1919, Waiiau Valley 31st January 1962, and near Cheviot 20th February 1962.

Plants grow in similar wet places to Carex flaviformis. A few plants proliferate, i.e. from the cluster of densely packed spiklets one to three very slender branchlets grow each bearing a further cluster of spiklets. It appears to be a late season grower. Only a few plants were seen on 24th December 1983 but many were observed on 1st March 1984.

Gnaphalum limosum: (downy muddy) We saw only a few plants of this species. They grow near the willow log in wet muddy sites. Botany Division's only Christchurch gathering is from Prebbleton in 1962. Other gatherings are Lake Leticia 1867, Hanmer Plains 1877, near Geraldine 1918, and near Bennetts 1955.

Limosella lineata: (muddy linear) Numerous patches with many flowers were seen on 23rd March 1983 in the damp area near the willow log. The flowers are very tiny and white. The four petals are incurved bearing very small hairs. Two of the four stamens are longer than the other two. I have observed previously the odd plant in the sand hills behind New Brighton, at Spencer Park, and at Kairaki. The Waimairi site was covered with an inch of water on 23rd October, 26th November, and 24th December 1983, and no plants were seen. Water still covered the site on 1st March 1984, only a few plants were flowering on some uncovered ground.

Utricularia monanthos: (bladder single flower) This plant is usually found in the mountains in wet ground. It produces underground bladders that catch minute animals. A patch of the blue flowers is a very pretty sight. Many plants can be seen near the Twin Culverts and the willow log. It has a long flowering season: from 23rd October 1983 to 1st April 1984.

Botany Division's only Mid-Canterbury gatherings are :-

1. from Coopers Lagoon. I am assured by the finder that it is not there now.
2. Waimakariri River in 1982. Possibly our site.

Dicksonia fibrosa: (after Dickson fibrous) One small plant of this tree fern can be seen near the suspension bridge. Joe Cartman assures me it has not been planted.

Juncus caespiticius: (rush turflike) Grows in wet places near the Twin Culverts and the willow log. This species does not appear common in the Christchurch area. I have seen it in only three sites, a swamp at Motukarara, a road channel part way up Gebbies Pass, and in the Bottle Lake Forest Park.

Eleocharis gracilis: (swamp ornament slender) Plants were found in a small area in shallow water on the other side of the fence beyond the Lake at the Groynes. Anthers were showing on 24th December 1983. Fruit was still on the culms on 1st April 1984. This plant is rare in the Christchurch district. See article in Journal 14 p.31. It cannot now be found on the sites mentioned at Chaney Forest or Bottle Lake Forest Park.

Carex vulpinoidea: This is an adventive Carex one plant only being found near the willowlog. It is worthwhile quoting from Flora of New Zealand vol. 3 p.161: 'The distribution is unusual: through N. Auckland and Bay of Plenty, one gathering from Taranaki, and on west coast of S. Island from N.W. Nelson to S. Westland; not known elsewhere in N.Z.'. I have previously collected it from Otira, Mt. Cheeseman, and, recently, near Murchison.

Juncus sarophorus: (brush-bearing) I have found this rush uncommon in the Christchurch area having collected it only once before at Motukarara.

I hope that my readers will feel encouraged to traverse this walkway and examine the native plants along its boundaries.