

PINK COLOURATION IN NEW ZEALAND PLANTS

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An article in the May 1987 issue of *Forest and Bird Magazine* ('Eyre - Cainard' by Prof. Alan Mark and Dr Gerry McSweeney) includes a description and illustration of a population of *Celmisia thompsonii* with flowers of deep pink. This prompts me to record some other instances of pink coloration in New Zealand plants and hopefully may inspire others to record their observations.

On the St Arnaud and Travers Ranges of Nelson Lakes National Park it is not uncommon to find plants of *Celmisia spectabilis* with pink coloration manifested in different ways; (a) faintly pink throughout the petals, (b) with a deep pink reverse to the petals, (c), petals fringed with pink.

On Mt Hutt, two summers ago, I came across a plant of *C. haastii* with flowers of deep pink. A specimen is in the CHR herbarium. Also, though not seen by me, I understand that *C. major* var. *brevis* (*Celmisia gracilentata* var.) from Mt Egmont is known to have forms with flowers of varying shades of mauve.

Other plants too can show pink coloration in species where flowers are generally described as white. On Mt Hutt, *Montia australasica* (*Claytonia*, *Neopaxia*.) is quite often pink flowered - and scented. The flowers of *Lobelia linnaeoides* are described as white or pale blue (Allan 1961) but more often they are distinctly pink and on Mt Dobson, Otago, they are a most attractive deep rosy pink

A year or two ago Mrs Janette West of Dunedin discovered a pink form of *Caltha novae-zelandiae* in the Glen Dhu forest, Waipori River, Otago.

More commonly, pink forms are repeatedly displayed in populations of *Leptospermum scoparium* especially where soils have been derived from basic rocks.

Reference

Allan, H.H. 1961 *Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta*. Government Printer, Wellington, 1085 pp.

