

## BOTANICAL NOTES 1986-1987

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### *Drymoanthus adversus*

This small epiphytic orchid has been found on fallen rimu and miro trees in Ianthe State Forest, south Westland. It appears to be confined to the outermost branches where it occurs in association with *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*. Although only recorded three other times in south Westland (Hokitika Gorge and twice in the Waiho Valley, Wardle 1980), *Drymoanthus adversus* is probably more common than these records indicate; its apparent scarcity reflecting its small size and inaccessible location. It is of interest to note that the other three epiphytic orchids, *Earina mucronata*, *E. autumnalis* and *Dendrobium cunninghamii*, occur abundantly in south Westland.

### *Spiranthes sinensis*

During one of the field trips on the Botanical Society summer camp, this very attractive orchid was found growing along the margin of Saltwater Lagoon, south Westland. Although previously not reported from south Westland, it is apparently quite abundant at sites near Hokitika and in a large mire just south of the Whataroa River (Kevin Smith pers. comm.).

### *Grammitis pseudociliata*

This easily overlooked epiphytic species of *Grammitis* can be distinguished from its more common relative *G. billardierei* by the presence of abundant hairs on the lamina. During recent trips to south Westland, I have found *G. pseudociliata* on kamahi trees near the base of Mt Hercules and on a putaputaweta tree on the track to Mt Fox. Parris and Given (1976) note that its distribution is local south of Auckland, and in South Island restricted to Westland. Other Westland records are Taramakau and Fox Glacier.

### *Botrychium bifforme*

Several plants of this primitive fern were found growing under tree ferns and Westland totara on a terrace close to the Wanganui River. This species has been recorded from a number of sites throughout New Zealand (Braggins 1980), but only from two in south Westland. The most recent site may in fact be close to the site of the 1949 record by G.H. Usher; 'North side of Big Wanganui River, south Westland. Shingly river bank area liable to flooding. Ecotone bush edge assn. *Fuchsia* spp. *Polystichum* spp. Rare scattered semishade tolerant.' The present site is further from the river but is close to the old Wanganui River bridge.

### *Erica lusitanica*

This was a less happy find in Saltwater State Forest. At present Spanish heath is largely confined to the north of Hokitika where it is abundant on some pakihis,

but now appears to be spreading southwards. This is of some concern, especially if it starts to invade some of the south Westland mires. The Department of Conservation in Westland have been advised of this record.

### *Elaeocarpus dentatus*

An interesting find on a recent trip to the Mt Grey area, Canterbury, was a sapling *Elaeocarpus dentatus* near the Grey River picnic area. The only other Canterbury localities to the south that I know of are Riccarton Bush and Rutherford's Bush near Springfield. Hinau has not been found in recent years on Banks Peninsula (Hugh Wilson pers. comm.) although earlier records listed it.

### Other species

The forested part of the Grey River catchment has turned up a number of other interesting finds over the last year as well as some disappointments. Two species known from forest remnants in Ashley Forest and a few other foothills sites, *Metrosideros diffusa* and *Ripogonum scandens*, have now been recorded from the Grey Valley proper. Another interesting find was a small patch of *Blechnum colensoi* on a steep bank under a large rimu. The main disappointment from the catchment has been the failure to find *Weinmannia racemosa*, despite its presence in adjacent forest remnants in Ashley State Forest. This is of some concern as the fate of the Ashley forest remnants is uncertain as a result of the recent forestry reorganization.

### References

- Braggins, J.E. 1980 Some studies on the New Zealand species of *Botrychium* Sw. (Ophioglossaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18, 353-366.
- Parris, B.S. & Given, D.R. 1976: A taxonomic revision of the genus *Grammitis* Sw. (Grammitidaceae: Filicales) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 14, 85-111.
- Wardle, P. 1980: Floristic notes for the region between the Taramakau and Haast Rivers, Westland, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18, 53-59.