

**SCHIZEILEMA COLENZOI IN CANTERBURY:
A NEW SOUTHERN RECORD**

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A recent collection (1993) of the herb *Schizeilema colensoi* Domin from the Harper River, Rakaia Catchment, inland Canterbury, is a significant southward extension to its recorded range. Originally described as having a rather restricted distribution along some eastern North Island ranges (Allan, 1961) it has since been collected from other North Island localities and more recently as far south in the mountains of Nelson, as the Matiri and Motueka catchments (lat. 41°38'S).

The Harper collection came from a small remnant stand of mountain beech in Corner Creek (lat. 43°08'S) at 1020 m elevation, some 170 km further south than the Nelson locations. It was found growing among other herbs, sedges and ferns (*Acaena anserinifolia*, *Schizeilema haastii* var. *cyanopetalum*, *Coprosma depressa*, *Uncinia rupestris*, *Hypolepis millefolium*, *Polystichum vestitum* and *Blechnum penna-marina*). The site is a seepage area beside the creek in an otherwise dry stony situation. The forest follows the creek as a rather long narrow strip with a mountain beech canopy and a sparse understorey.

A permanently marked forest structure plot was established on the site in 1972, as one of 250 such plots throughout the Harper/Avoca/Craigieburn area. It was during the re-measurement of these plots for stem diameter growth and mortality, seedling recruitment and floristic diversity, that *Schizeilema colensoi* was found.

REFERENCE

Allan, H.H. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol 1, Government Printer, Wellington.