

- Martin W 1963. The indigenous flora of Banks Peninsula. Banks Lecture. Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture 5: 48–59.
- Raoul EFL 1844. Choix de plantes de la Nouvelle Zélande. Annales des Sciences Naturelles 3(2): 113–123.
- Raoul EFL 1846. Choix de plantes de la Nouvelle Zélande. Paris, Fortin, Masson et Cie.
- Williams HW 1971. A dictionary of the Maori language. Seventh Edition. Wellington, Government Printer.
- Wilson HD 1992. Banks Ecological Region. Survey report for the New Zealand Protected Natural Areas Programme 21. Christchurch, Department of Conservation.

Postscript

The mid-October 2012 Botanical Society visit to the Banks Peninsula *Pittosporum obcordatum* site found the population in full flower. Further individuals were located, including some juveniles, which confirmed there is some recruitment of seedlings. The total known tally of *P. obcordatum* on Banks Peninsula currently stands at 23.

Meanwhile, at Motukarara Nursery, hundreds of *P. obcordatum* seedlings are crowding Nicky Robb's seed trays.

***OPHIOGLOSSUM CORIACEUM* (ADDER'S TONGUE) ON THE PORT HILLS, CHRISTCHURCH**

Rosemary Koller & Sally Tripp

Authors for correspondence: kollers@orcon.net.nz, sally.tripp@xtra.co.nz

Ophioglossum coriaceum is alive and well at the head of the Bowenvale Valley this spring (Fig. 1, page 18). There is a healthy strip, less than one metre long, of this unusual, primitive fern on the perimeter of a north-facing flat, rocky outcrop. The site is close to an area of rock that was blasted post-earthquake for safety reasons, so it is a relief to know that the Adder's tongue fern has survived in this location. The 2010 to 2012 earthquakes did significant damage on the Port Hills so we fear for the safety of some ferns on the rocky outcrops, especially those on Castle Rock.

In the past, Arnold Wall around 1918 (Wall 1918, 1953) and John Lovis and Hugh Wilson in the 1980s (Wilson 1992) recorded *Ophioglossum coriaceum* as being on the Port Hills, but we searched for over ten years and were

unable to locate it before the publication of our book *Ferns of the Port Hills* (2010). Interestingly, John Lovis recorded *O. coriaceum* with two different chromosome counts, but no further records have been published (Dawson et al. 2000).

Alice Shanks recently found this fern in the Bowenvale Valley and took us to the site. It is a very difficult fern to spot: it is small (the fronds being about 1-1.5 cm long and the fertile spikes up to 2 cm long in the plants we saw), it doesn't look like a fern, and it is often hidden in grass. Also it dies down each season.



Figure 1 *Ophioglossum coriaceum* growing in Bowenvale Valley, spring 2012

We would like to hear of any other sightings of *Ophioglossum coriaceum* on the Port Hills. Please contact us if you have information about this fern.

References

- Dawson MI, Brownsey PJ, Lovis JD 2000. Index of chromosome numbers of indigenous New Zealand pteridophytes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 38: 25–46.
- Wall A 1918. *Ferns of the Port Hills*. *Lyttelton Times*, 13th July.
- Wall A 1953. *The Botany of Christchurch*. Revised edition. Wellington, AH & AW Reed.
- Wilson HD 1992. Banks Ecological Region. Protected Natural Areas Programme Survey Report No. 21. Christchurch, Canterbury Conservancy, Department of Conservation.