out of a 1000 seedlings) appearing in wild collected seed of *Dodonaea viscosa* from Banks Peninsula in the DOC Nursery at Motukarara. These originate from isolated, naturally-occurring green akeake from either Hoon Hay Valley or Pigeon Bay sources! (Luke Martin pers. comm.).

Botanic Gardens *Ileostylus micranthus* update 2020

Dean Pendrigh

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Back in May 2016 we carried out a trial to find out the establishment rate of *Ileostylus micranthus* on a range of different host plants in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. I can now report that after 4 years of growth the most vigorous of the remaining established plants are producing flower buds for the first time. *Ileostylus* flower (inflorescence) buds appear opposite each other in the axils of the leaves. Buds were first noticed at the start of June on *Coprosma virescens* (in garden of the author) and by 24th June had elongated to 4 mm long with individual flowers buds within the inflorescence being noticeable. At the time of submitting this article, inflorescences were 13mm in diameter and individual flowers, which are in clusters of three were up to 5mm long. These plants look like flowering towards the end of August. Flowering time for *Ileostylus micranthus* is from September- December (Kirby 2014).

Coprosma virescens as mentioned above has the most advanced buds with Ileostylus on *Pittosporum dallii* (in Botanic Gardens) about a week or two behind. Plants on *Pseudowintera* and *Melicytus* are still in tight bud and are likely to flower later in the flowering season. The remaining host plants have smaller *Ileostylus* plants, which were still in tight bud as at end of July and might not produce flowers this season (Table 1).

Thrips appear to be a serious pest of *Ileostylus micranthus* and seriously impedes the growth of young plants and in severe cases can kill young plants. Plants in moister situations appear to be less affected.

References

Kirby CL. 2014. Field guide to New Zealand's epiphytes, vines & mistletoes. Environmental Research Institute, University of Waikato.

Pendrigh D, Macdonald KJ. 2017. Mistletoe success for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal 48*: 36–42.

Table 1. Numbers of *Ileostylus micranthus* plants established on different host species (those with the most vigorous *I. micranthus* first, and the least vigorous last), the dimensions of the longest *I. micranthus* shoot and (where visible) root, severity of thrips damage, and flowering status. *Coprosma virescens* host plants were growing in the author's garden.

Host species	**Number of *I. micranthus* plants**	**Longest shoot / longest root of *I. micranthus* (cm)**	**Thrips damage**	**General comments**
Coprosma virescens	7	50 / 33	Minor	Flower buds more advanced than those in Botanic Gardens.
Pittosporum dallii	3	65 / 79	Minor	Numerous haustoria; most vigorous ones in Botanic Gardens possibly because of north facing aspect of host.
Psuedowintera colorata	1	38 / 20	Moderate	Buds starting to open; root very twisted, hard to measure.
Melicytus ramiflorus	1	33 / -	Minor	Buds starting to open; roots not visible, internalised within host stem.
Corokia cotoneaster	6	23 / 40	Minor	May not flower this season; 5 of the 6 plants resemble a single plant because of the way the roots intertwine.
Coprosma rotundifolia	4	13 / 39	Severe	Unlikely to flower this season; might not survive another dry summer.
Coprosma areolata	2	12 / 39	Moderate	Unlikely to flower this season.