defeating management method) is likely to simply increase the amount of bared habitat available for colonisation by Onehunga weed.

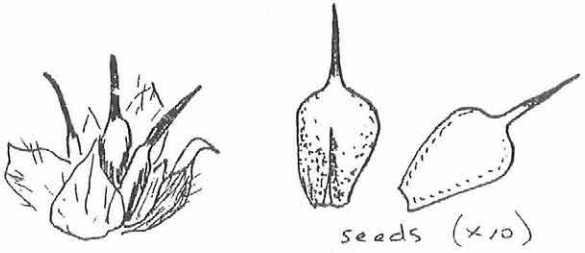
Control strategy
From the public places where it is presently concentrated it can be expected to spread to private gardens. I believe that there is some social onus upon Regional and District councils to initiate control of Onehunga weed on public lands under their control in order to lessen the subsequent and inevitable spread onto private lands. The issue has been brought to the attention of Dunedin City Council, DOC, Otago Regional Council, Environment Southland, and Otago University. The DCC have indicated that they will endeavour to eradicate it from Council land.

We must bear in mind that, as with all weeds, we can probably never eradicate Onehunga weed, that although we might concentrate on keeping certain sites free of it, that re-invasion can always be expected, that chemical or biological control methods are not magic solutions, that every weed needs to be managed with a knowledge of its ecology, and finally that weeding is forever!

What can Botanical Society of Otago members do?
1. Become familiar with Onehunga weed at one of the localities mentioned above.
2. Note sites of occurrence, and of equal interest, vulnerable sites which do not yet have the weed.
3. Do some weeding yourself if the infestation is small, otherwise report occurrence to some local authority.

I am happy to confirm identification of collections, to hear of additional sites of occurrence, and to receive any feedback **(JohnsonP@LandcareResearch.co.nz)**. I shall pass records of Dunedin sites on to Dunedin City Council. Once we have a little more information, and perhaps some consensus of views, I can publicise the topic via a newspaper story.

Fig. Seeds of *Soliva sessilis*
Drawn by Peter Johnson



Trip Report

Allison Conservation Covenant and Bull Creek Reserve - Sat. 23 Feb

Ralf Ohlemüller, Botany Department, University of Otago, Dunedin

February's trip led us to two of the few forest remnants on Otago's east coast. Both the Allison Conservation Covenant and the Bull Creek Reserve harbour in parts extensive stands of Southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*) / kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*). They are the northern outposts of the dominant forest type of podocarp/rata and kamahi

forest found further south in the Catlins. Southern rata reaches its northern limit on the East Coast here, whereas isolated stands of kamahi are found further north at Taieri Mouth and as far north as Graham's Bush in Dunedin.
A small group of us set out to the Allison Covenant where there is an option of two well maintained walks, the kamahi and the rata ridge walk, both about 45 minutes return. We were a bit late in the year to see the rata in flower, but it appears it wasn't an excessive rata flowering year, quite a different from last year, when the forest floor was covered by a red carpet of rata flower stamens. Both walks give an excellent impression of the variety of forest types in the reserve. There is some almost pure podocarp forest with magnificent rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) specimens and a very species-rich and healthy understorey with regenerating rimu, miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) and Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii*). Rata and kamahi become slowly intermixed as the track goes on but there are almost monospecific rata stands on the ridges, with a more open and shrubby understorey. At the end of the loop track the slender white trunks of kamahi dominate the sides of the gullies. The reserve is surrounded by *Pinus radiata* forestry plantations and it is bordered by thick gorse. However, weed input into the reserve seems to be low and mainly confined to the track. A recent survey of more than 150 forest remnants showed the sampled plots at Allison Conservation Covenant to be almost weed free and to harbour among the highest number of native vascular plant species in the region.

After an extended lunch we made our way to Bull Creek. The area (Akatore) is used for large scale exotic forest plantation and seeing bare hills all the way to the horizon after a recent harvest leaves a somewhat dreary picture. As our way led towards the coast, however, it was remarkable to see the many pockets of native bush left in the gullies between the rolling hills of farmland. Those small remnants are mainly composed of pepper tree (*Pseudowintera colorata*) and tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*). Nevertheless, they could have immense importance as "stepping stones" for both fauna and flora between larger remnants of native forest vegetation.

The entry to Bull Creek is actually where the creek runs into the sea, behind a small, tidal estuary. There is a boardwalk recently repaired and extended by an impressive local community effort. Here again, we walked through extensive rata and kamahi stands, passing the famous "signature trees", some of which had engravings from as far back as 1911. The sides of the creek became steeper and steeper the further we walked into the gully. At the end of the maintained track we found a pleasant picnic spot and we used the little break for a small fern survey. In an area of no more than 20 m^2 we found more than 10 species of ferns. This is probably the reason why, in the above mentioned survey, Bull Creek came out as having a remarkable species-rich ground layer. Weed input into the reserve is slightly higher than at Allison Conservation Covenant but still very low compared to other forest remnants in eastern Otago.

It was very encouraging to see these two remnants of rare (for Otago) forest type in such good condition. They are rather hidden amidst extensive areas of modified land and somewhat off the beaten track, which probably assists in keeping them in such good condition and also contributes to their special character.