

After lunch we crossed the Dam and entered an easy track which followed up a ridge into heavy bush. At the entrance of this track stood a Coprosma arborea about 20 cm. in diameter and 10 m. high. A little distance into the bush an Alseuosmia quercifolia was in berry. The dominant tree seemed to be miro, Podocarpus ferrugineus.

The bush was typical of the Hunua rain forest, similar in many ways to the Waitakeres. The kauris seem to be cut out, though there are some towards the top of the range. We saw a grove of about fifty Coprosma arborea, all large trees and, strangely, a large number of Cordyline pumilio which we all know are not very common.

The only orchids seen were some Farina autumnalis which were in full flower and some rosette leaves, presumably of Pterostylis trullifolia.

We returned to the bus at about 3 p.m. and left for home after a very pleasant and not too strenuous day.

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UNIVERSITY RESERVE, WAIMAUKU -----17th May 1969

The day was fine for our trip to the University Reserve at Waimauku. We arrived without incident and found our way down the narrow road leading to the reserve. Once we were out of the bus the driver tried to reverse, only to find that it was well and truly stuck, the wheels spinning helplessly on the wet clay. Thinking that it would be better to free it than rather than after our botanising, further attempts were made to reverse out but, even with the help of dead tree branches and chains under the back wheels, the bus still refused to move. Fortunately a Post Office landrover came by and the driver shovelled out the clay from under the rear wheels and replaced it with loose metal from the road. He attached a chain from the rear of the bus to the back of the landrover and then helped to tow the bus out, helped by those giving a few pounds at the front. He then drove off, barely giving us time to thank him.

We walked down a narrow road, noting some Metrosideros fulgens in flower and Carmichaelia aligera in fruit. We entered the reserve and made our way towards some large kauris. We saw Coprosma spathulata, with plenty of berry, C. rhammoides growing alongside C. lucida, Brachyglottis repanda and Nertera dichondraefolia. There were several beautiful large kauris as well as regenerating ones. One large specimen looked as if it had originally been two separate trees, the trunks of which had later fused together, leaving a distinct line down one side.

We were pleased to see a good plant of Schizaea dichotoma with

fertile fronds. One of the largest kauris had quite a lot of Bulbophyllum pygmaeum growing on the trunk, as well as Dendrobium cunninghamii. It was interesting to see that several smaller plants had developed from the larger one in succession down the trunk. As it was fairly late we decided to have lunch in a small clearing among the kauris. Just sitting there we saw several species including a poroporo in berry, a Griselinia with narrower leaves than usual growing on a kauri, Hedyccarya arborea, Carpodetus serratus, Corokia cotoneaster, Dianella intermedia, Geniostoma ligustrifolium and Myrsine australis.

After lunch we were pleased to see plenty of the tiny orchid, Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii in bud. The party split up, the main group going with Mr. Butler down towards the stream, the rest with Mr. Warren, making for the back boundary of the reserve. Mr. Warren pointed out the only plant of Lindsaea trichomanoides that we saw during the day. At one point we found hundreds of small Carmichaelia seedlings with juvenile foliage.

We reached the fence after passing through some teatree scrub amongst which there were quantities of Olearia furfuracea and some rather fine Lycopodiums. We failed to find the milk tree we had come to see, even after following the fence line for some way on either side of the stream and we began to make what we thought was our way back. Once unsure of the direction in which we should have been heading we found it difficult to find the best way back to the bus and struggled through large areas where supplejack and bush lawyer made the going unpleasant. We finally spotted the group of kauris we should have been making for and arrived safely back at the bus, somewhat behind the main party. Other plants of interest noted during the day included white maire, tanekaha, Alseuosmia macrophylla, Coprosma areolata, Dodonaea viscosa, Knightia excelsa, Nestegis montana, Vitex lucens and Lindsaea linearis.

A.D.P.

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PHYTOPHTHORA CINNAMOMI IN NEW ZEALAND. ----- Prof. F.J. Newhook.

In a large and important genus of plant destroyers Phytophthora cinnamomi commands special interest because of its wide host range (over 300 species), its widespread occurrence and its remarkable uniformity.

Some of its spectacular "successes" are littleleaf disease of Pinus echinata in south-eastern U.S.A., avocado root rot in California and pineapple root rot in Hawaii and Queensland. It has been suggested that it was P. cinnamomi that caused the disappearance of chestnuts in the south-eastern U.S.A. It is now in a position to do the same for jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata), the main timber tree in Western Australia. In 4-5 million acres of native jarrah forest, 100,000 acres have been invaded by the fungus which has not