

of yellow bloom on the spaniard, Aciphylla colensoi stood out from afar and there was also the smaller Aciphylla glaucescens. In any slightly damp hollows the water fern Histiopteris incisa was unrolling hundreds of fronds. The tiny New Zealand violet, Viola cunninghamii was everywhere, in full bloom, with its roots tucked underneath rocks and seemingly not minding the very dry conditions.

Two of the three tarns over the saddle were quite dry, but still plants such as Celmisia spectabilis, the large white mountain daisy, grew well. The tiny parsley plant, Anisotome, with its fine white umbels of bloom, several small Dracophyllums, many Hebes, Gaultheria depressa, mountain totara, and even an odd plant of the beautiful Prince of Wales Feather fern, Leptopteris superba grew happily. Odd plants of the perching orchid, Earina autumnalis, Blechnum lanceolatum and B. fluviatile were seen and large patches of the tiny Blechnum penna-marina, all mixed up with Viola and Helichrysum.

It was so dry that all filmy ferns and Pyrrosia serpens on the tree trunks appeared quite dead, although of course they'll come to life miraculously with the rain.

Back at the hut by 10 a.m. and away downhill by 11 o'clock. Here the more lush pasture was populated by numerous terrestrial orchids, Microtis unifolia and Thelymitra longifolia in bloom and the sweet fern Paesia scaberula plentiful on the dry hillsides, with pockets of Blechnum minus tucked beside rocks.

A large stand of Fuchsia excorticata proved interesting, having one specimen of a deep plum colour, with extra bright blue in the flowers. Pieces of this are now rooting, we hope.

Reaching creek level, Phymatodes diversifolium seemed extra green as it adorned the damp logs above the water and here we saw our first tree-ferns, Cyathea medullaris.

We arrived back at the cars after  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours. While all agreed that the sight of that alpine garden made worthwhile those gruelling ascents and jelly-kneed descents, from now on I for one must be content with the Hikurangi flowers on my slides - I hope!

Mrs. C. Veitch.

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Further Psilotum nudum records.

Warren F.W.

Following the note in the last Newsletter I have been given three more records for Auckland. A recent one from Mr. B.H. Oumber, who has found Psilotum growing out from between a low concrete wall and the wooden fence on top of it, at a house in Orakei Road between Elmstone Avenue and Rangitoto Avenue.

Mrs. P. Hynes has given me two other records. One from Ascot Avenue, Remuera collected by Miss M. Segar, 11-8-65 and the other near Coronation Road, Epsom where Miss M. Crookes found some growing a few years earlier.

Its occurrence in Remuera, at least, would seem to be fairly regular. I would be interested to receive any other records from urban Auckland.