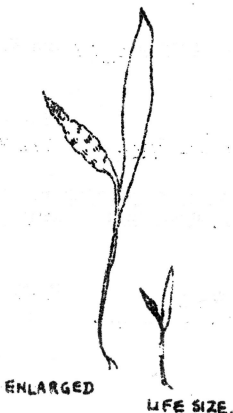


THE REAPPEARANCE OF OPHIOGLOSSUM

Mrs K. WOOD.

Both N.Z. species of Adder's tongue (Ophioglossum) have been collected in the Auckland area in the past but I understand have not been recorded here for some time. In September 1958 I found a few tiny plants of O. coriaceum on a Hui'a summit, but subsequent visits proved unfruitful. This is a seasonal plant and as our visits were made usually in the dry summer months coinciding with its dormant period, probably this is why it was not in evidence. Having decided for myself it had disappeared altogether, imagine my pleasure on the 16th. September this year to find after 14 years that this plant still grows there and appears to have multiplied. At this time of year they are fresh and green with the fertile spike shorter than the lamina, as illustrated, but later as the spores ripen the spike grows taller.



IMMATURE PLANTS.

OPHIOGLOSSUM CORIACEUM.

HUIA, 16.9.72.

They grow among moss and fine grasses on a sparsely covered rocky outcrop and, being only an inch high, are not easily seen. I counted about twenty plants, mostly within a square foot. A search in similar situations may yet reveal more specimens but at present, if this is the only record, the plant must be considered very rare in the Auckland botanical district.

There seems to be some doubt about the correct naming of these species and more research is required.