the presence of Ipomoea palmata growing wild at Opotiki.

The following weekend I checked out the plant and found an adult vine growing beside a boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum) with the many stems growing through it. A younger seedling was nearby. The area was a foredune, some three hundred yards east of the County Council's picnic area, altitude approximately 5 - 10 feet above high tide, with associated plants mainly wire-vine (Muehlenbeckia complexa) and tree lupin (Lupinus arboreus). During spring tides, or storms, the sea could easily lash this foredune area.

The closest known planting of the vine in the district is at the late Norman Potts residence in Opotiki, some 2½ miles away as the crow flies.

I informed A.E. Esler, D.S.I.R. Botanist in Auckland of these facts and he said that he suspected that seeds are water borne around the world and are capable of establishing whenever conditions are suitable. There is a similar colony at Karekare near Piha, and it is assumed that seeds from a Piha planting were carried down a stream to the sea then cast ashore. Perhaps this occurred in Opotiki during the major flood of 1964.

For those unfamiliar with this plant... Ipomoea palmata grows indigencusly in the Kermadecs, Three Kings Is. and on North Auckland coastal cliffs and foredunes down to about 35 degrees 30' latitude. It is abundamt in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Related to the better known adventive Morning Glory or Blue Convolvulus, our native species is pale purple with darker throat and has leaves which are digitately 5 - 7 lobed, 4 - 8 cm diameter - a most attractive, vigourous creeper.

A FURTHER OBSERVATION ON CORDYLINE INDIVISA ON POINT 21, MT KOHUKOHUNUI, HUNUA RANGES

A.J. DAKIN

In 1971 I carried out a survey of the distribution and condition of a small population of toii (Cordyline indivisa) on Point 21 (660 m above sea level) to the N.E. of the highest Hunua peak, Mt Kohukohunui (694 m). The results of the survey (with distribution map) were reported upon in the Botanical Society Newsletter of March 1972.

Eight plants were located in grass-fernland and regrowth shrubland around the point and these ranged in size from 10 - 15 cm high to one adult specimen with a height of 3 - 4 m and trunk diameter of 10 cm.

Plant condition was generally poor - the smaller much browsed by goats and surrounded by vigorous competing vegetation. However the largest toii appeared to be healthy, of good vigour and with most of its tufted head in good light.

Information from Mr J.W. St Paul (a long time resident

in the area) indicated that toii was more abundant on higher ground in the early 1900's (1910-14), being present in well lit openings in the tawa forest. Mr St Paul remembered several large specimens, one in particular having multiple branching with several heads.

Since that time many man - animal induced changes have occurred in the area and toii declined in abundance to the few survivors recorded in 1971. It was postulated - "that the numbers of C. indivisa will decline still further to the extinction of the species in the Hunuas within the not too distant future."

Earlier this year I revisited Point 21, mainly with the objective of collecting seeds and cuttings of several upland plants for the nursery. This gave the opportunity to examine again the small colony of toii and reassess condition after six years.

A diligent search was made around the point for plants mapped in 1971, but all that could be located was the lower trunk of the largest toii with one small (pathetic) leaf tuft at the base. All the smaller plants have died and the 'open ground' where most were located now has a dense covering of Blechnum discolor, although some open grassy patches still exist. Plants dominant in the adjacent shrubland include Dicksonia squarrosa, Quintinia serrata, Olearia rani, Pseudopanax arboreus P. crassifolius, Griselinia littoralis and Melicytus ramiflorus.

So (sadly) it would appear that my earlier forecast - that the small northern outlier of toii would disappear has come true. Clearly though before one can finally pronounce the extinction of the species in the Hunuas a more detailed search of the higher ground needs to be undertaken - although it does seem that the chance of locating further plants is very remote.

THE ALBANY PITCHER PLANT - CEPHALOTIS FOLLICULATUS

JEAN KING

During a recent trip to Western Australia, I had the good fortune to see this now rather rare insectivorous plant growing in its natural environment. As we approached Albany, I searched in many swampy areas to no avail, so approached the tourist bureau for information. This was supplied, along with a map with the route arrowed to a likely area. The girl at the bureau doubted if I would find it as people had been taking plants from the area. She also told me that it grew among reed and sedges in the swamp. I am happy to say that despite what had been taken, I managed to find about eight clumps of the plant growing within a few feet of each other and feel that there would be more in less accessible places in the swamp.

The plant was much smaller than I expected and a little like Drosera with similar green and red colouring and hairs on the lid and ridges on the side of the pitchers.

The inside leaves of the plant are flat but the outer ones are modified into pitchers containing plant juices and having a