there. Already it has become one of our commonest mountain plants, flourishing here far better than in its native New Zealand. So what is its destiny?

William Condry

BAUMEA RUBIGINOSA AGAIN

by R. Mason

Last years journal, in which my note on Baumea rubiginosa appeared, was scarcely out when two accusing fingers were pointed at me - the first by Dr. Brian Molloy who was justifiably astonished to find that I had left out the site of my own collection from the small relict swamp north of the Avon near the end of Palmers Road. Worse, I find that I had previously marked my copy of Wall's "Botany of Christchurch" where he recorded it for the North Brighton swamps. At the same time Wall mentioned a few plants on rocks on the side of Cashmere Valley. Then secondly Mrs. Bulfin pointed out that it was quite wrong to say that the Armstrongs had not found it in Canterbury for J.B. Armstrong in his paper on the Flora of Canterbury (Trans. N.Z. Inst. Vol. 12 1880) recorded it as occurring locally on Banks Peninsula and in Alpine regions. There do not seem to be any specimens for these early records, which are of course under the then current name of Cladium glomeratum. Readers will have noted that in last years journal it was also mentioned by Dr. Andrew Dobson for the Waipara Gorge.

It is still true that Baumea rubiginosa seems to have always been fairly rare in Canterbury and localities are worth noting and substantiating by specimens.

BAUMEA RUBIGINOSA - AND AGAIN

by John Thompson

I should like to add my mite to Ruth Mason's article on Baumea rubiginosa.

The writer and his wife in April visited the area at Journeys End where they found a patch of Baumea rubiginosa growing on 23rd May, 1973. As was expected farming operations have destroyed those plants.

However not too far away in the adjacent Ashley Forest, on the 14th April, 1976, a very small patch was seen partly hidden by vigorous growing rushes. A week later two Forestry officials were escorted to that locality in order to examine this Baumea. Alas, we were unable to find it.

After such a deflating experience we were delighted to discover on 23rd May, 1976, growing in a paddock behind the Leithfield Beach, a number of scattered plants of Baumea rubiginosa. In the area were many clumps of Scirpus nodosus, Juncus species and Eleocharis acuta. At this late date in the season the Baumea culms were beginning to die down.

On examining the specimens taken it was noticed that none of the nuts were fully developed. They were trigonous in shape and fairly soft.

It would be interesting to ascertain how many of the recorded sites of Baumea rubiginosa in Canterbury still contain live plants.

CONSERVATION

by J. Ballin

From my window spreads a world
far beyond imagination's reach
of Rata ridges girted sepulchre.
Lighting rose gray
beckoning space.
Unfolding spark towards zenith
breathes moist fresh air
expanding quest's horizon
charged of sanctity's psalter.
A touch, a look
gives combination ------
but is it safe?

SEED DISPERSAL OF LIPAROPHYLLUM GUNNII

M.J.A. Simpson

The dry, two-valved capsule of gentians that splits to release numerous small round seeds is familiar to most of us but the fleshy, indehiscent fruit of Liparophyllum gunnii, another member of the Gentian family, is less well known. On Mt. Rochfort in January the matted plants of Liparophyllum were studded with starry white flowers borne on short, stout peduncles. They grew on the upland pakihi, on peaty terraces enclosed by narrow granite ridges where inwashed silt and finely ground granite formed a thin upper layer. Associated species included Herpolirion novae-zelandiae, Hemiphues suffocata, Euphrasia disperma and Drosera spp.

In early April when I looked for seeds of Liparophyllum, the small terraces were awash, with surface water trapped by the impervious granite rim and the poorly draining peat below. The peduncles of Liparophyllum had elongated to as much as 15 mm and the mature fruits, now at various stages of disintegration, were well clear of the foliage so that seeds dropped into the ponded water. The yellow seeds are somewhat oval in shape, c. 1.5 mm across and a little longer, flattened and with a slightly thickened rim. In the whole fruits I looked at there were four to six seeds.

The brightly coloured seeds are large enough to be attractive to birds but it was a singularly bird-less landscape. Probably seeds are spread about chiefly by movement of water. Some herbarium specimens show the once succulent fruits dry and papery but still intact. Water may be necessary for the collapse of the outer tissue; if so this could ensure that seeds are dispersed where and when conditions are favourable for establishment.
