snow avalanches. About half-way up, the sides of the gorge are well-clad with O. colensoi. There is almost a direct line from Whitcome Pass to the Reischek, so the West Coast weather reaches it almost unimpeded (maintaining both the Olearia and, in the valley above a handsome clean glacier). It is possible that other finds of the species will turn up in similar sites near the Main Divide in Canterbury.

CARMICHAELIAE IN A DOMESTIC GARDEN

By M.H. Aiken

A recent survey of cultivated specimens of plants of the Carmichaelia group, in a garden within half a mile of the centre of Christchurch City revealed the surprising total of eleven species, mostly well-established and adapted to their environment. Evidently these members of the lequminosae group respond readily to cultivation and it is felt that they deserve more frequent consideration in garden planning.

The list comprises:

C. odorata
C. robusta
C. aligera
C. kirkii
C. petriei
Notospartium carmichaeliae
Notospartium glabrescens
Chordospartium stevensonii
C. enysii
C. corrugata
C. appressa

The last three as listed may be regarded as somewhat doubtful, perhaps, as regards their viability. Enysii was collected McKenzie Pass and planted six years ago. It is no longer thriving, possibly through having been planted in a damp, sunless area. Corrugata and appressa were collected as cuttings from Birdling's Flat and remain little more than cuttings as yet though apparently in good shape.

Six members of the group, grown mainly from seed, have flowered, generally in November and December and the fact that this includes Chordospartium stevensonii and Notospartium carmichaeliae is particularly gratifying as the seed was collected at Woodside Gorge, Marlborough five years ago. Acting under instructions from Mrs. Parsons, of Woodside Gorge, care was taken over a number of weeks to separate the mite - or weevil-infected, seed from the more viable seed and ultimate success achieved. In the same way seedlings were also grown of Notospartium glabrescens. Specimens of all three have grown to a height of five or six feet. The racemes of soft pink (amaranth rose) on the drooping branchlets of Notospartium carmichaeliae are very attractive and would have decided value, if only as background, in any garden.

The flower racemes of C. stevensonii are equally striking though pale mauve in colour. In each case flowers first appeared in December 1977, i.e. in the fifth year of growth. N. glabrescens, a handsome plant with long, slender branchlets has not yet flowered. It has been described as one of the most beautiful of our native plants.

Until a few years ago two other species had been successfully grown. Corallospartium crassicaule flowered profusely two successive seasons while less than three feet in height and then died. C. monroi survived only one year after flowering sparsely.

C. petriei, though slow-growing and apparently healthy and, with its gold-tipped branchlets, quite presentable, has not yet flowered. It was collected from the McKenzie area about eight years ago.

Perhaps the most satisfying of all in the group so far is C. odorata. Always leafy and quick-growing it becomes laden with scented, purplish flowers every season. It requires regular pruning as the flowered branches tend to die back. Several seedlings have been located at its base.

A feature of the broader stemmed aligera is the striking effect, in the autumn, of the orange-red, mottled black of the seeds which remains clinging to the rims of the pods for lengthy periods after the pods have opened.

C. kirkii, because of its sprawling habit, would scarcely be welcome in a small garden, except perhaps as ground cover. Its flowers, like those of robusta, are insignificant.

Once adequately rooted, most species of the genus appear to grow at a reasonable rate and are not unduly exacting as regards soil, site, etc. They are not readily available from - in fact almost unknown to - most nurserymen, presumably because of lack of demand. Nevertheless they deserve a place in the average garden. At least some species can be grown from seed without much difficulty, or perhaps after some pre-treatment, and the seeds themselves are usually plentiful on the plant for weeks or months after flowering. They can also be grown from cuttings and this is said to be the quickest and easiest method. Attention has already been drawn to the danger of extinction of many members of the group owing to the inroads of stock and noxious animals. Preservation may therefore be a valid argument in favour of growing carmichaeliae in the home garden.