

Sex Ratio in *Coprosma Repens* (Rubiaceae)

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THE Society's excursion on 5 October, 1957, was devoted to counting male and female plants of *Coprosma repens* (taupata) in sample areas between Moa Point and Taraki Bay on Wellington's south coast. Nine members worked singly or in pairs and returned the following figures.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	169	113
	140	100
	103	82
	76	41
	60	36
	59	48
	45	45
Totals:	<hr/> 652	<hr/> 465
%:	58.4	41.6

The preponderance of males is conspicuous in all cases except the last, where one observer recorded exact equality. This sample was on the steep slope on the landward side of the road, whereas all others were on the flat between the hills and the shore, and mostly between the road and the shore.

Even in the one anomalous case it was noticed that the earlier records, which were mostly on rocky ground at low levels near the road, showed a preponderance of males, whereas later records, mostly further up on the steep grassy slope, had a preponderance of females. It would be unsafe to conclude from these figures alone that the distribution of the sexes is related to ecological preference rather than to chance, but it is at least possible that the recorded preponderance of males has an ecological rather than a genetical basis.

The figures do not represent complete counts of all plants in the sample areas. In fact it was often difficult to determine the limits of individual plants, so that sometimes a single sample only was taken from a thicket which may have contained several plants. It is thought that such errors would be unlikely to cause appreciable bias.