

replaced by kohekohe. The sequence can be seen on the hillside above Rangatira flat, west of the caretaker's house.

Shining broadleaf (*Griselinia lucida*) is both terrestrial and epiphytic on Kapiti. Young plants are abundant under kanuka and akiraho on very steep slopes. The habitat here probably differs little from that in the canopy of a tree. One very large specimen in Maraetakaroro Valley has two oval trunks each about 18 in. thick in the narrowest dimension but one reaching 27 in., the other 40 in. across the long diameter.

A. E. ESLER

Field Trip to the Black Birch Range

During Easter 1967 the Society visited the Black Birch Range on the western side of the Awatere River in Marlborough. We stayed in a large, centrally heated house situated on the crest of the range at 4,600 feet. The house had been built by Princeton University as one of two possible sites for an astronomical observatory, the other at Mt. John being finally selected.

The terrain in the vicinity of the house was a more or less level ridge crest with scattered large outcrops of rock. The latter sheltered a number of shrubs, including the Marlborough endemics *Heli-chrysm selago* and *H. microphyllum* (bright yellow with flowers), and various herbs including the spaniard *Aciphylla aurea* and large specimens of *A. monroi*. The often windswept open areas had a low cover mostly of herbaceous plants with *Celmisia spectabilis* and *C. sessiliflora* prominent. The red berries of *Pentachondra pumila* were particularly attractive.

The ridge led to Altemarloch (5,600 ft.) and on the way there was quite a striking change in the vegetation from about 5,000 ft. with the pale yellow cushions of the Marlborough vegetable sheep (*Haastia pulvinaris*) becoming conspicuous, together with other mat or cushion plants such as *Anisotome imbricata*, *Raoulia bryoides* and *Celmisia sessiliflora*. In places *Gentiana bellidifolia* and *G. corymbifera* were in full flower.

There were quite extensive screes on the west side of the ridge but no scree plants were noted here.

A saddle separated Altemarloch from Mt. Harkness (5,280 ft.) where further screes provided habitats for a few plants of typical scree species. About half a dozen plants of the more northern of the two scree anisotomes (*A. diversifolia*) were discovered, this being a new record for the species. In addition one rather diminutive specimen of the penwiper plant (*Notothlaspi rosulatum*) was noted, and several plants of *Epilobium pycnostachyum*.

Finally, at somewhat lower altitudes, the upper limits of remnant mountain beech forests were visited in two valleys to the west of

Altemarloch. These were notable for the few species they contained, but in adjacent open areas near streams the moister conditions supported a greater variety of species, among them several large plants of the grey-green *Aciphylla glaucescens* and in one place the small *Gingidium trifoliolatum*.

A list of species seen was compiled by Mr A. P. Druce.

J. W. DAWSON

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the past twelve years (excepting 1956) the Society has made a feature of a major field trip at Easter. Localities visited in previous years include Waihohonu, N. W. Ruahine Range, Waipakihi Valley, Hauhungatahi, Rotopounamu and Mt. Pihanga, and (latterly in the northern part of the South Island) the Robert Range, Mt. Arthur, Lake Sylvester, Wairau Valley and Boulder Lake. This is the first of what is hoped will be a regular series of reports on these trips, to record routes taken and any interesting observations. Mr. A. P. Druce compiled species lists for all the South Island localities and these can be consulted by anyone interested.

Orchids of the Wellington District

Notes and Additions (3)

A. P. Druce, Wellington

THESE notes follow on from previous records published in Bulletins 22 (p. 4), 23 (p. 9), 25 (p. 10), 29 (p. 3) and 32 (p. 14). One additional species is recorded, and further localities are given for eight uncommon species. The numbers in brackets refer to specimens in Botany Division Herbarium, Lincoln.

Caladenia lyallii. This species, previously known in the North Island only from the central area, has been found in the Wairarapa and on the Tararua Range. Localities: north-west face of Mt. Percy, E. Wairarapa, in manuka scrub, 1400 ft., A.P.D., G. N. Park (158624); track to Dobson's Hut, southern Tararua Ra., in manuka scrub, R. J. Chinnock.

Adenochilus gracilis. Konini, Pahiatua, M. E. More (62844).

Corybas aconitiflorus. Mt. Percy, in beech forest and manuka scrub, G. N. Park; Oterei V., S. Wairarapa, in beech forest, A.P.D.

C. cryptanthus. Wallaceville Hill, in beech forest, A.P.D.; Wakatikei V., in beech forest, G. N. Park.

Pterostylis banksii var. *patens*. Mt. Mangatoetoe, Aorangi Ra., in scrub, 2800 ft., A.P.D.; Mt. Percy, in scrub, 1200 ft., G. N. Park, A.P.D. (158622).

P. foliata. Oterei V. and Kaiwhata Track, Wairarapa, in manuka scrub, A.P.D. (158784); Mt. Percy, in manuka scrub, G. N. Park.

P. furcata var. *micromega*. Western Lake Reserve, L. Wairarapa, M. J. A. Simpson (77786).

Thelymitra caesia. Kaiwhata Track, in manuka scrub, A.P.D.

T. decorata. Mt. Percy, in manuka scrub, G. N. Park, A.P.D.; Oterei V., in manuka scrub, A.P.D. (158760).