AN EX-EDITOR'S WANDERINGS

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WOODEND WILDLIFE REFUGE. For Journal 19 I wrote an account of the very great number of plants and of the many thousands of flowers of Limosella lineata seen at the Woodend Wildlife Refuge on the 23rd February 17th April, and 1st May 1985. I suggested that for parts of the year these plants might possibly be under water.

On subsequent visits made on 17th July, 1985, 1st January, 19th February, and 10th May 1986 the whole area was found to be covered in water and on each occasion some of the surrounding willow trees had water around them. It seems likely that the plants seen by us were submerged during the whole of the year.

Any of my readers who visited the area to see the Limosella would have been disappointed. It could be that they might have to wait for another drought year before it is again visible. How fortunate it was that I had witnesses on two of my trips who can vouch that the plants actually were there and that I had not made the story up.

If the area is still covered with water next summer members of the Society, equipped with gum boots and spades, might like an expedition to the Refuge to see how the Limosella has fared during its long period under water.

Gastrodia minor. Being disappointed on the 1st January 1986 that the Wildlife Refuge contained enough water to cover the Limosella lineata we continued on the Pegasus Walkway towards Waikuku until we arrived at a plantation of pine trees. This we thought might be worth investigating.

Growing under a dead pine tree on the far edge of the plantation were a bunch of 10 orchids new to us but which accurately matched the photograph and description of Gastrodia minor. The plants varied in height from 9 - 24cm and bore from 2 - 7 flowers per plant. The only other finding of this orchid in Canterbury, I understand, is in Hanmer. Growing within a few metres of the Gastrodia minor were a dozen fine specimens of G. sessamoides and four plants of Chiloglottis cornuta.

These findings encouraged us to look for Gastrodia minor in the

Bottle Lake Forest Park on the 4th January 1986. We were extremely fortunate in spotting, after only five minutes search, 14 plants of Gastrodia minor and a similar number of Gastrodia sessamoides growing only two meters apart. We spent a further three hours at Bottle Lake but observed no further orchids. The sites where both the Woodend and Bottle Lake populations of Gastrodia minor were found were under mature pine trees.

Chiloglottis cornuta. Our finding on the 23rd November 1986 of 12 plants of Chiloglottis cornuta was I believe the first finding this orchid on the Port Hills. They were unusual in that they were growing on a grass hummock in the open. We found them in a paddock below the Ahuriri Reserve close to some Pterostylis foliata. They were small plants, the two basal leaves not exceeding 1.5cm. The lips of the flowers on some plants were partly covered a dark shiny brown. The cali were prominent and coloured in the same fashion.

Caladenia carnea. In 1983 we discovered in Kaituna Valley, after a lapse of many years, half a dozen plants of Caladenia carnea. There was no sign of them in 1984. However, on the 11th December 1985 we found on the same site a patch of over a dozen plants. They were delicate plants about 12cm tall and bore small dullish white flowers.

On 14th December 1985 we searched Gilpins Track in the sugar Loaf Reserve for Caladenia carnea plants. In 1982 we had seen a patch of over 60 plants in flower. In 1983 the number had been reduced to barely 30 plants. In 1984 no plants were seen. On the 14th December 1985 we could discover only two plants. These were growing on a bank some ten metres from the site where we first found this species. The plants were much stouter than the Kaituna Valley being over 20cm tall. The flowers were also larger than the Kaituna ones and were coloured pink. The calli were very prominent and were coloured a bright shiny yellow. The inside of the flower when viewed through a lens was striking

10 Utricularia monanthes. In Journal 18 1984 we reported finding this species flowering on the Waimairi Walkway and that Botany Division' only Mid Canterbury gatherings were from: 1. Coopers Lagoon, now lost, 2. Waimakariri R. in 1982 possibly the Waimairi site.

On the 5th March 1986 we discovered a number of flowering plants of Urticularia monanthes growing in a damp hollow in a paddock situated between Wolfes Road and the L11 river not far from where that river flows into Lake Ellesmere. One wonders how such a predominantly mountainous species comes to be growing on a site that has no connection with the mountains.

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LATIN ENDINGS OF SPECIFIC NAMES

In 1973 we found that some of the specific names of the plants in the genus Pseudopanax (includes Neopanax) had been changed because the gender of Pseudopanax had been established as being masculine not neuter as previously. So, names such as arboreum became arboreus and lineare became linearis. As for the ones that did not change, like ferox, discolor, and lessonii, perhaps,it is as well that some mysteries remain decently veiled in these times of explicitness.

It was while checking a list of ferns in Derrick Rooney's article, page 46, that an ambiguity was noticed in the endings of the specific names of the members in the genus Hypolepis. Consulting Brownsey et al, 'A revised classification of N.Z. pteridophytes with a synonymic checklist of species ', N.Z. journal of botany 23 1985, of the seven Hypolepis spp listed ,in Rooney's article three, the species name ended in a feminine or common to feminine and masculine suffix with the exception of Hypolepis millefolium, which is obviously in the neuter gender. Further consultation with Hooker's Handbook of the N.Z. flora, 1864, gave H. tenuifolia, H. Millefolium, and H. distans. The specific name spelt with a capital? An appeal to Elizabeth Edgar produced an answer. When Hooker 'the father' first described the species in 1852, he used as the specific name Millefolium, the name of another genus of plants. Probably the reason why he used a capital letter. The laws of nomenclature rule that such an epithet does not have to agree in gender with the name of the genus. Hence, Hypolepis, feminine gender; millefolium, neuter gender. The laws do, however, insist that the specific epithets do not start with a capital letter. The only ambiguity remaining is the naming of one of the ferns ? Ed.