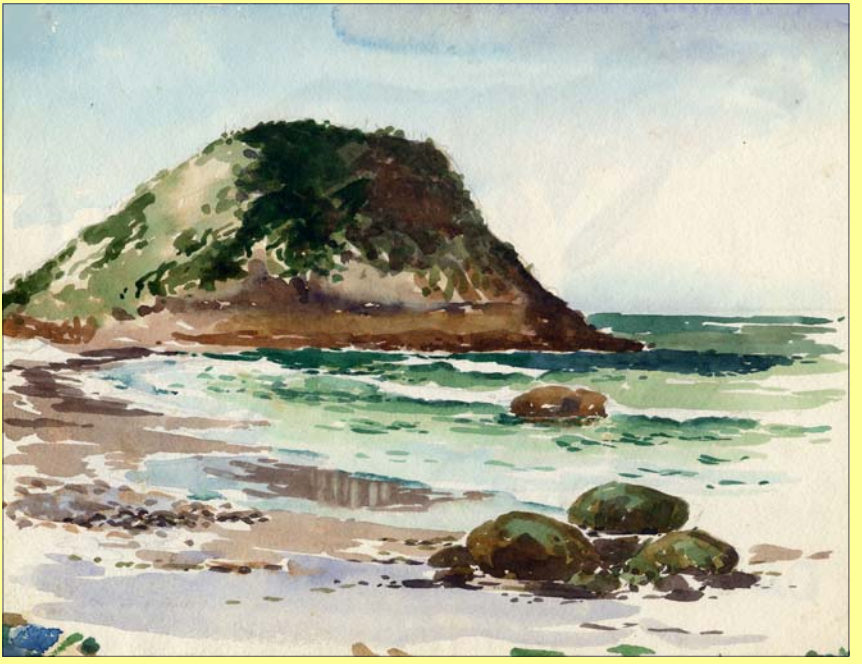
Owen Gibson's orchid paintings



Compiled by Ian St George,
with Bruce Irwin and Val Smith

Owen Gibson's orchid paintings

watercolours and line drawings of New Zealand native orchids

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Bruce Irwin
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Number 15 in the New Zealand Native Orchid Group's *Historical Series*

Acknowledgements

George Fuller passed these watercolours and line drawings to Te Papa for safekeeping. Owen Gibson is rumoured to have lent many more orchid watercolours to a friend just before he died: these have not been found, and the identity of the friend remains a mystery. A treasure of orchid art has thus either been lost, or awaits discovery. We are indebted to Mrs Phyllis Gibson and to Mr Dan Hatch for the photographs (Dan wrote recently, "Owen started the ball rolling by sending a watercolour of *Pterostylis alobula* to H.H. Allan for identification. Allan passed this on to me, thus enabling me to get in touch with Bruce and Owen."

Cover

Watercolour by Owen Gibson of a scene at Paihia, Bay of Islands.

Owen Edward Gibson (1928-1978)

By Val Smith

Owen Gibson, the son of carpenter Cedric (Sid) Gibson and his wife Gertrude May Gibson, née Parkin, was born in New Plymouth and grew up in the suburb of Westown. At the age of 15 or 16 he left New Plymouth Boys' High School, where his father had earlier been Dux, and took employment as a trainee with nurserymen Duncan and Davies, working up to the position of block manager. Founded at Westown in 1899, Duncan and Davies was to become the largest grower of ornamental trees and shrubs in the Southern Hemisphere.

Owen imbibed a love of the outdoors and its wildlife from his father, and as a lad accompanied him to nearby Barrett Lagoon, or further afield to Mt Taranaki and the ranges, sometimes with friend and orchid enthusiast Bruce Irwin. Later Owen Gibson replaced his father on native orchid expeditions with Irwin, and in 1947 discovered a new species of *Pterostylis* on the mountain. He drew it, and in 1950 E D Hatch described *Pterostylis irsoniana,* "Ir-son", a combination of the names of the two men "who between them have done much to elucidate the orchid flora of Mt Egmont". The investigations of Irwin and Gibson led to Hatch's paper *Orchids of the Egmont Ranges*, published in 1953. On an expedition to Northland in 1949 they found an unusual *Thelymitra* that Irwin nicknamed "sanscilia". On their return south, near Wellsford, Gibson found *Corybas cryptanthus* (now *Molloybas cryptanthus)*, a little-known, almost subterranean spider orchid. Their last trip together was to Arthur's Pass in January 1957 – looking for orchids, of course!

Owen Gibson married Phyllis Swan; they were to have two sons and a daughter. In 1962 the family moved to Waitara, leased a block of land, and started their nursery Seaview Plants. Gibson was a good plantsman, and did considerable work with hybrids. In the 1970s he grew the award-winning native flax "Yellow Wave" for horiculturalist and plant breeder Felix Jury, and recognised the qualities of a *Leucadendron* hybrid bred by Mr Bell, Wanganui, raising and introducing "Safari Sunset" to New Zealand gardeners and cut flower growers.

Owen and Phyllis Gibson both enjoyed drawing, painting and, in the early days, going on art group excursions. Owen had studied watercolour painting at night school, and his native orchid watercolours were accurate as well as artistic. He was a keen sportsman, and when at Duncan and Davies, played cricket for Westown. Taking after his father, he was also a competent handyman, and built a bach at Onaero, in North Taranaki. Unfortunately, ongoing health problems led to Owen Gibson's untimely death at Waitara in 1978, at the age of 49.

Memories of Owen Gibson

By Bruce Irwin

Owen Gibson's first home was "1923" Tukapa St New Plymouth. No, not house number 1923 Tukapa St. That number I do not know; but 1923, the year the house was built by his father Cedric (Sid) T. Gibson, was emblazoned on the roof in enormous figures clearly visible from the road. I wonder if they are still there?

The section on which the house stood sloped toward the sun and was the site of a prolific orchard which included Chinese gooseberries and tree tomatoes both very new to New Zealand. Behind the house a second section was home to the large vegetable garden and a cluster of beehives. Along the southern boundary a magnificent *Cupressus lawsoniana* hedge provided adequate shelter from winds. Right at the limit of suburban settlement, the property was not quite a farmlet, nor was it crowded with many others on to mean little sections. Dairy farms extended inland toward the picturesque background of Mt Taranaki and the Pouakai Range. Within walking distance the scenic reserves of Rotokare (Barrett Lagoon) and Ratapihipihi held much of botanical interest. Extensive coastal reefs, teeming with aquatic life, were a short bicycle ride away, as were swimming beaches and the fascinating volcanic Sugarloaf Islands. In short it was a wonderful place for a boy to grow up in. A place where he might readily develop an
interest in the natural sciences – yes, but there was another very important factor in Owen's development – his father.

I was little more than a boy when in January 1939, I left my Wanganui home to join the New Plymouth office of Lands and Survey as a draughting cadet. My landlady, aware of my interest in nature, arranged an introduction to Owen's father, Sid Gibson. Owen at the time was a small boy aged about ten. I was immediately aware that Sid was a most remarkable man. He was aware of every form of life which walked, flew, swam or just sat, and was keen to further his knowledge about them. More importantly he was willing to share time and knowledge with anyone who showed similar interests.

Quite soon, most weekends were spent exploring local reserves in Sid's company, followed by full day excursions to Pouakai and Kaitake Ranges. Mt Taranaki itself beckoned, and the old North Egmont House, Holly Flat hut and Kahui hut became bases for holidays and long weekends.

Taranaki is home to many plants not found near Wanganui so many excursions yielded something new. Then Cheeseman's *Flora* would be studied to check identities. Occasionally as a change from botany, a wet cork rubbed on a bottle brought down within arm's length riflemen, tomtits and whiteheads. Sometimes a kaka would respond to a nail scratched on a metal matchbox. Many fallen branches were turned over in search of the elusive *Peripatus* – unfortunately these remained elusive. Vegetable caterpillars and *Dactylanthus taylorii* and its product the wood rose were quite new to me. I have much to thank Sid Gibson for.

The native orchids had long been a special interest of mine. Sid and I found several species new to me, but found also that Cheeseman's *Flora* provided a less

than ideal identification tool. This lack of ready identification did not discourage Sid. Instead it aroused in him a resolve to grapple with and solve the problem. Now both of us were "hooked" on native orchids.

A few small setbacks did occur, such as the time when having found *Orthoceras* for the first time I placed the flowering stem carefully on a bridge parapet while I searched for a suitable container in my pack. Unfortunately Sid noticed fruit on a matai tree below so stepped on that same spot to get a better view. His quick sense of humour softened my disappointment by suggesting the orchid be renamed *Orthoceras "stoodonupon".*

About that time Owen began to join our rambles. He was a quick learner. My own participation had for some time been limited to occasional weekend leave from first the Army, then the Lands and Survey military mapping programme. In 1943 RNZAF aircrew training, followed by a year in Japan with Jayforce, brought my participation to a grinding halt.

I returned briefly to New Plymouth in August 1947 to find that Owen was much more actively involved, though ferns rather than orchids were his special interest. However by then he was corresponding regularly with Dan Hatch at Laingholm, Auckland, at that time revising the native orchids in a series of papers published in *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand.*

Three months later I was transferred to Land Development branch of Lands and Survey, Te Kuiti. Almost immediately a voluminous flow of mail arrived from Owen detailing his finds, often including flowering specimens or detailed sketches. One package included two *Pterostylis* species, *P. humilis* (new to me), and the very first collection of what was later described as *P. irsoniana* by Dan Hatch. Then within weeks Owen reported, for the first time in the North Island, *Townsonia deflexa*.

Until recently, I always believed I had sharp eyesight. Owen's father would vouch for that. But when Owen and I searched for a particular plant it was almost always Owen who found it first.

All three of us were intrigued by Cheeseman's records of rather rare orchids found in the extensive Ngaere Swamp ESE of Mt Taranaki and wondered if they could still be found. First we had to find the swamp. Many years previously it had been very effectively drained though it still appeared prominently on survey maps of the time. After hours of searching we at last found a small dampish area of coarse pasture close to Oru Road. In this unlikely spot, two orchids not previously seen by us, persisted. One was a single plant of *Pterostylis micromega* bearing an elegant flower. The other was a splendid flowering plant of *Thelymitra formosa. Prasophyllum patens,* our third quarry, we could not find. The date was 21 Dec 1948, rather early for *P. patens* to be flowering, but if it had been present, Owen almost certainly would have found it.

Frequent exchange of letters was our sole communication until October 1949 when Owen set off from New Plymouth to search for orchids recorded by RH and HB Matthews near Kaitaia many years previously. At Te Kuiti I joined him. We hurried to our destination on motorcycles, but soon found that "progress" had destroyed most of the choice orchid sites. However the hills above Ahipara showed promise. Owen found there a *Thelymitra* we couldn't identify in Cheeseman's *Flora.* The following day I found an identical flower at Kaimaumau.

These *Thelymitra* flowers lacked cilia on the slender column arms, so we tagged them *T. sanscilia.* Not realising that this was indeed a new species we turned for home rather disappointed.

An overnight stop at an hotel in Kaikohe added a brighter note. The receptionist Joyce Jones had on her desk a vase full of *Thelymitra* flowers, including *T. cyanea, T. ixioides* and *T.* x *dentata.* She was delighted that at least someone took an interest in them. Next morning we searched Joyce's source of flowers, a disused local quarry, a delightful if somewhat untidy habitat. From there we hastened homeward but between Wellsford and Warkworth our determination to make the trip worthwhile led us into a tempting area of mature manuka. One of the main aims of our expedition was to locate *Corybas matthewsii* (now *Anzybas rotundifolius*). Realising it would be past flowering, we had examined closely any fruiting stems of *Corybas*, so far unsuccessfully. A whoop from Owen drew me to a clump of moss or lichen from which a seeding capsule protruded. At the base of the stem no leaf was evident, just a fragile redflecked translucent bract. Perhaps it wasn't a *Corybas.* What could it be? *Ickle-ockle-us* was my suggestion, which stuck to it until 1952 when Hatch described it as *Corybas saprophyticus* [1]. Unfortunately that epithet had already been applied to a species overseas so Dan renamed it *C. cryptanthus* [2] (it is now *Molloybas cryptanthus*). We hurried to Auckland to show our find to Dan Hatch, who was greatly interested and arranged two later visits to the locality, eventually finding a perfect flower.

Next day I returned to Te Kuiti. Owen continued towards New Plymouth but at Onaero stopped to explore a side road. There he found *Corybas* "big red", yet another unnamed orchid. I received beautiful fresh flowers from Owen a day or two later. The watercolour I made of them adorned the front cover of the 2001 edition of *Field guide to New Zealand orchids* by which time it bore the name *Corybas* (now *Nematoceras*) *iridescens* [3].

On that one hurried trip to Kaitaia and back, Owen discovered not one, but <u>three</u> unnamed species. Can anyone beat that?

The last orchid foray I shared with Owen was in January 1957 at Arthur's Pass. We spent a week or more there, thoroughly enjoying the South Island alpine flora

and scenery. No particular goals had been set, so there could be no disappointments. We simply enjoyed each interesting plant we found. I kept no record of orchids found, but I have clear memories of *Pterostylis oliveri,* new to both of us: and as relaxed as we were, sprawling elegantly over a well maintained rockery. One bizarre find was a few small plants of *Pterostylis irsoniana,* competing with struggling young grass on the front lawn of the comfortable cottage we occupied.

Of the four unnamed orchids discovered by Owen, *P. irsoniana*, found in 1947 was the very first.

Communication with Owen gradually lessened after that memorable visit to Arthur's Pass – not through any disagreement – far from it. Our lives simply followed diverging paths. I had moved overseas, all the way to the South Island, where, in 1978 I learned of Owen's untimely death. Were he still with us, I'm sure he would be a keen NZNOG member. What other new discoveries would he have made? I have many happy memories of both Owen and Sid Gibson. Farewell my good friends.

References

1. Hatch ED. A New Species of *Corybas* Salisbury, and a Note on Some Name Changes in *Wahlenbergia* Schrader. *Trans.Roy.Soc.N.Z.* 1952; 79: 366-8.
2. Hatch ED. Name changes in the orchid genus *Corybas. Trans.Roy.Soc.N.Z.* 1956; 83: 577.
3. Irwin JB & BPJ Molloy. Two new species of *Corybas* (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand, and taxonomic notes on *C. rivularis* and *C. orbiculatus.* New Zealand J. Bot. 1996; 34:1.

Dan Hatch took the three photographs of Owen Gibson and Bruce Irwin with their motorcycles in 1949 at Laingholm as they departed for Northland. There they discovered two new orchids, *Thelymitra sanscilia* and *Molloybas cryptanthus.*

Plate 1: *Acianthus sinclairii*

Plate 2: *Aporostylis bifolia*

Plate 3: *Cyrtostylis reniformis*

Plate 4: *Drymoanthus adversus*

Plate 5: *Molloybas cryptanthus*

Plate 6:
Two of the several taxa within *Nematoceras rivularis sensu* lato, possibly Nematoceras *papa* and *N. iridescens*

Plate 7: *Nematoceras orbiculatum*

Plate 8: *Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae*

Plate 9: *Pterostylis foliata*

Plate 10: *Pterostylis irsoniana*

Plate 11: *Pterostylis irsoniana*

Plate 12: *Pterostylis montana sensu* Moore

Plate 13: *Pterostylis montana sensu* Hatch,
generally regarded as *P.* aff. *montana*

Plate 14: *Pterostylis oliveri*

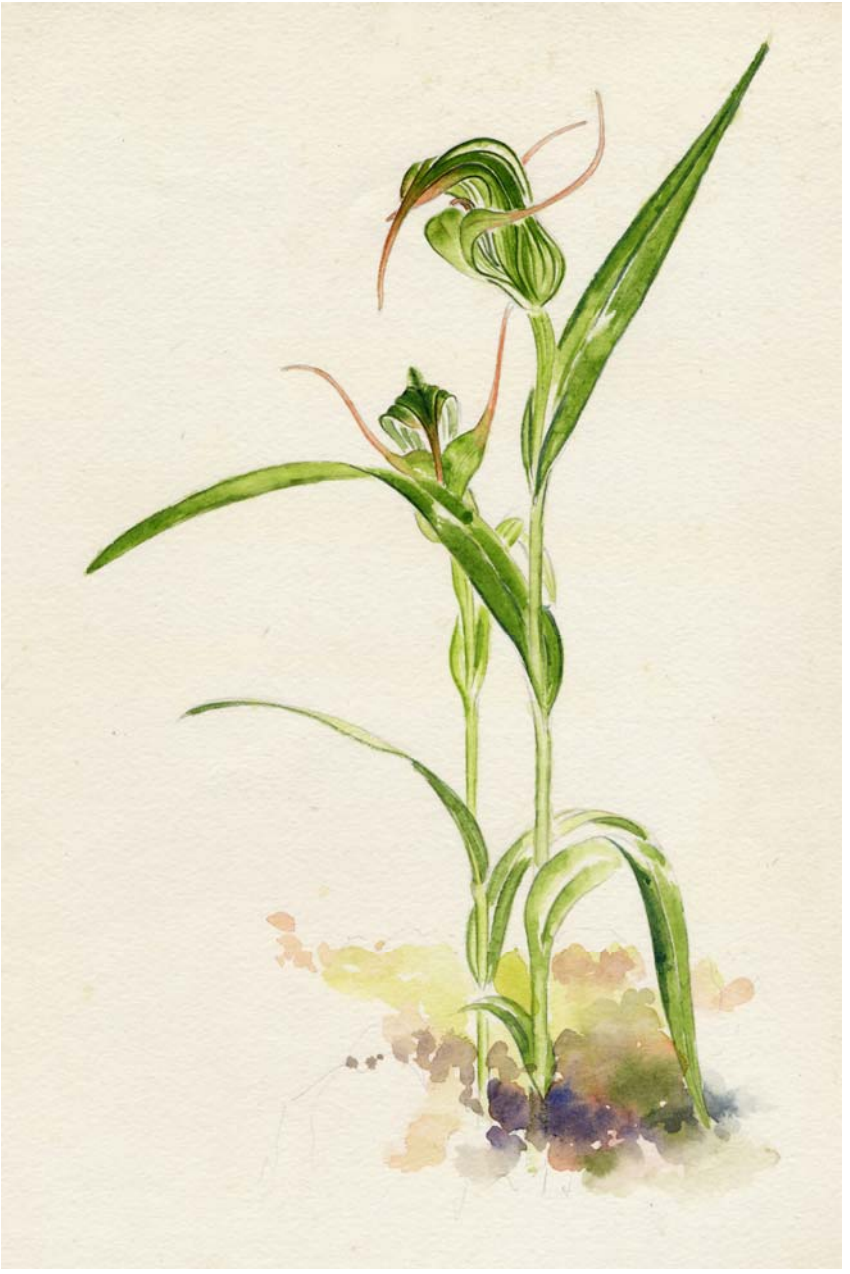

Plate 15: *Pterostylis patens*

Plate 16: *Pterostylis puberula*

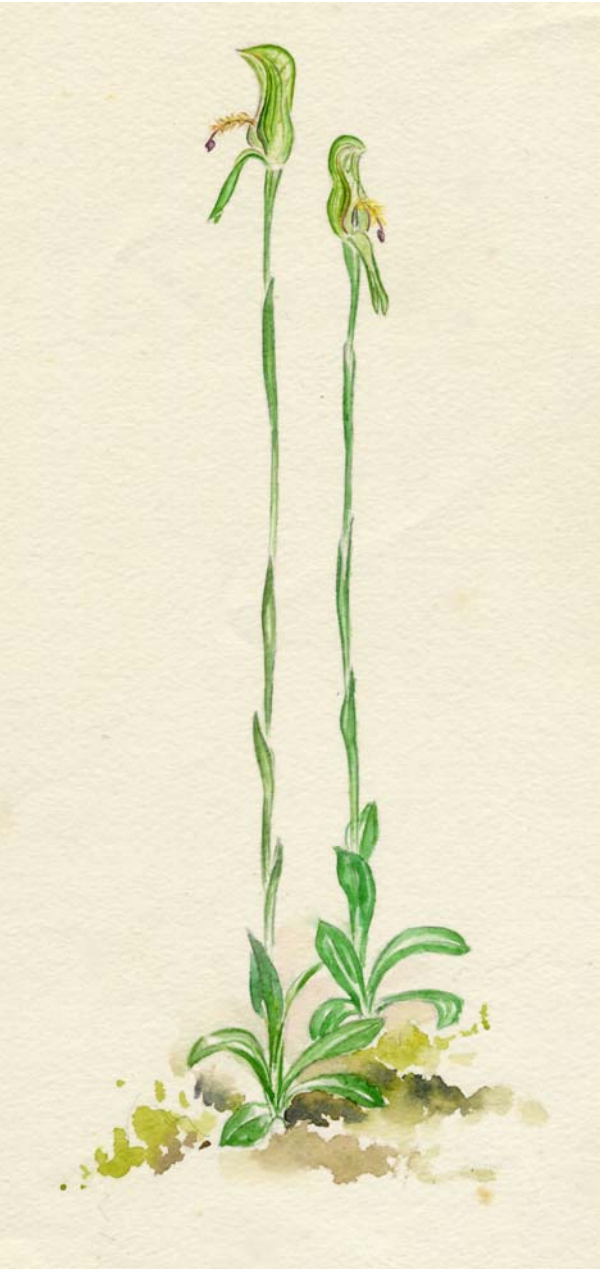

Plate 17: *Pterostylis tasmanica*

Plate 18: *Thelymitra formosa*

Plate 19: *Townsonia deflexa*

Plate 20: *Waireia stenopetala*

Plate 21: *Winika cunninghamii*

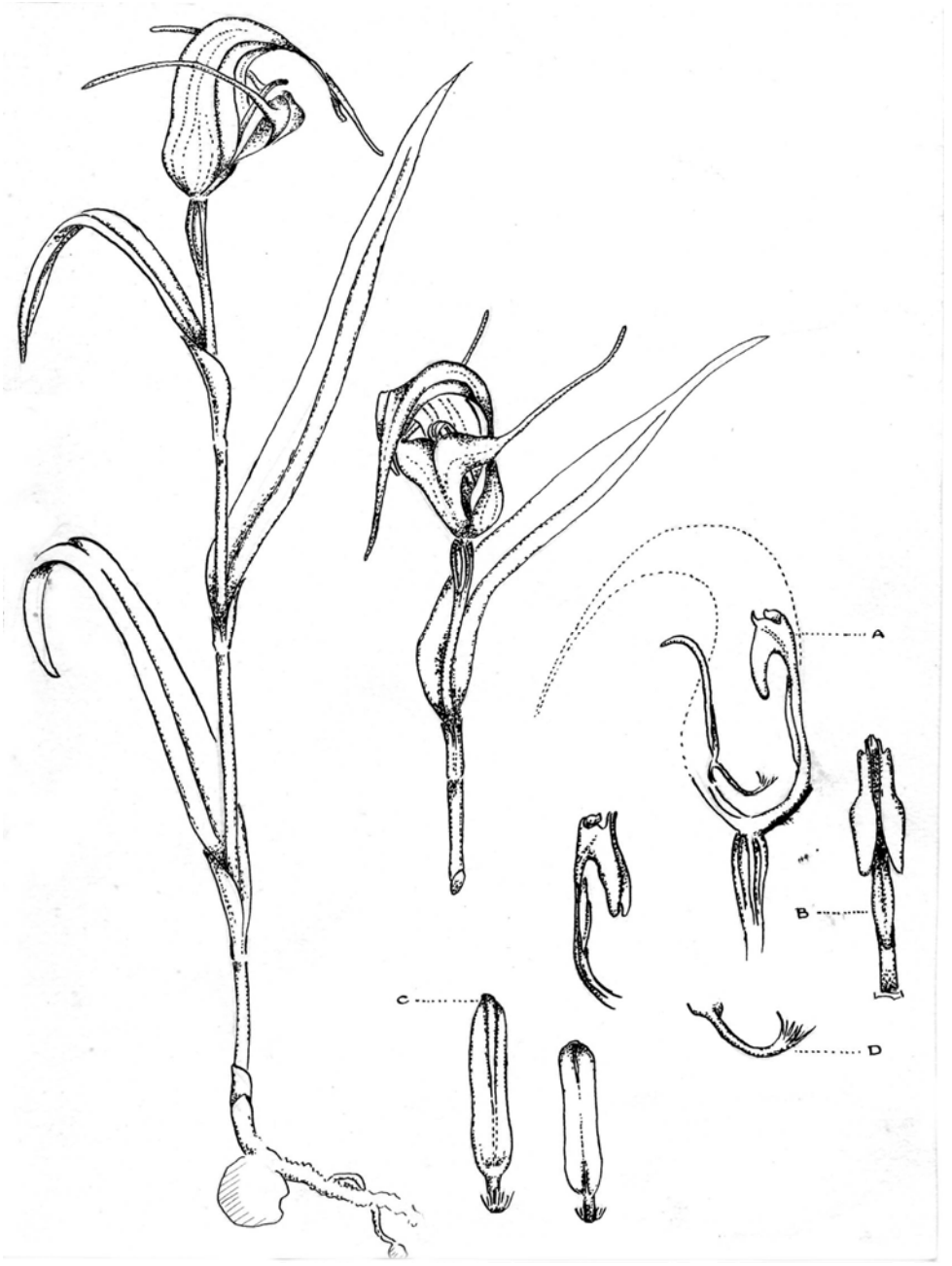

Plate 22: *Pterostylis banksii* (or perhaps *P. patens*)

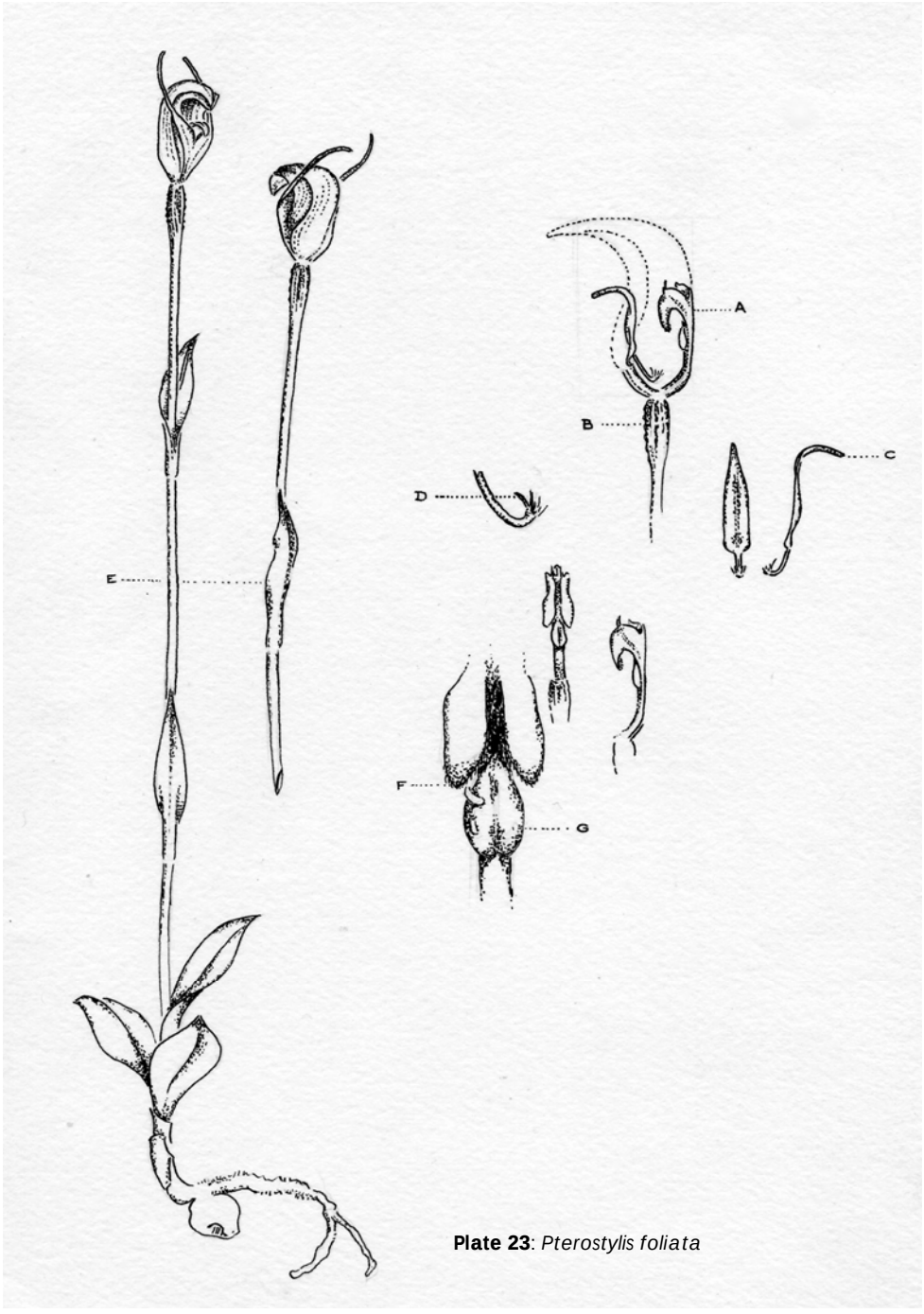

Plate 23: *Pterostylis foliata*

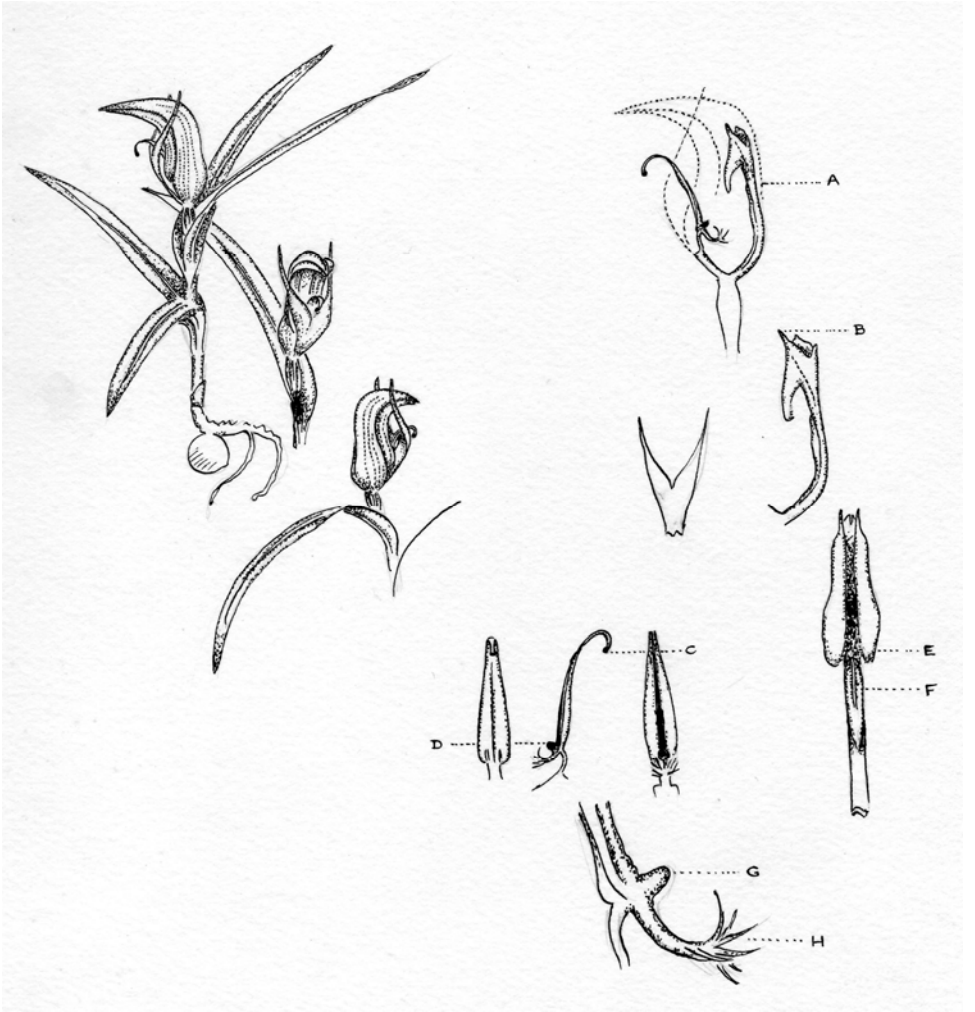

Plate 24: *Pterostylis irsoniana*

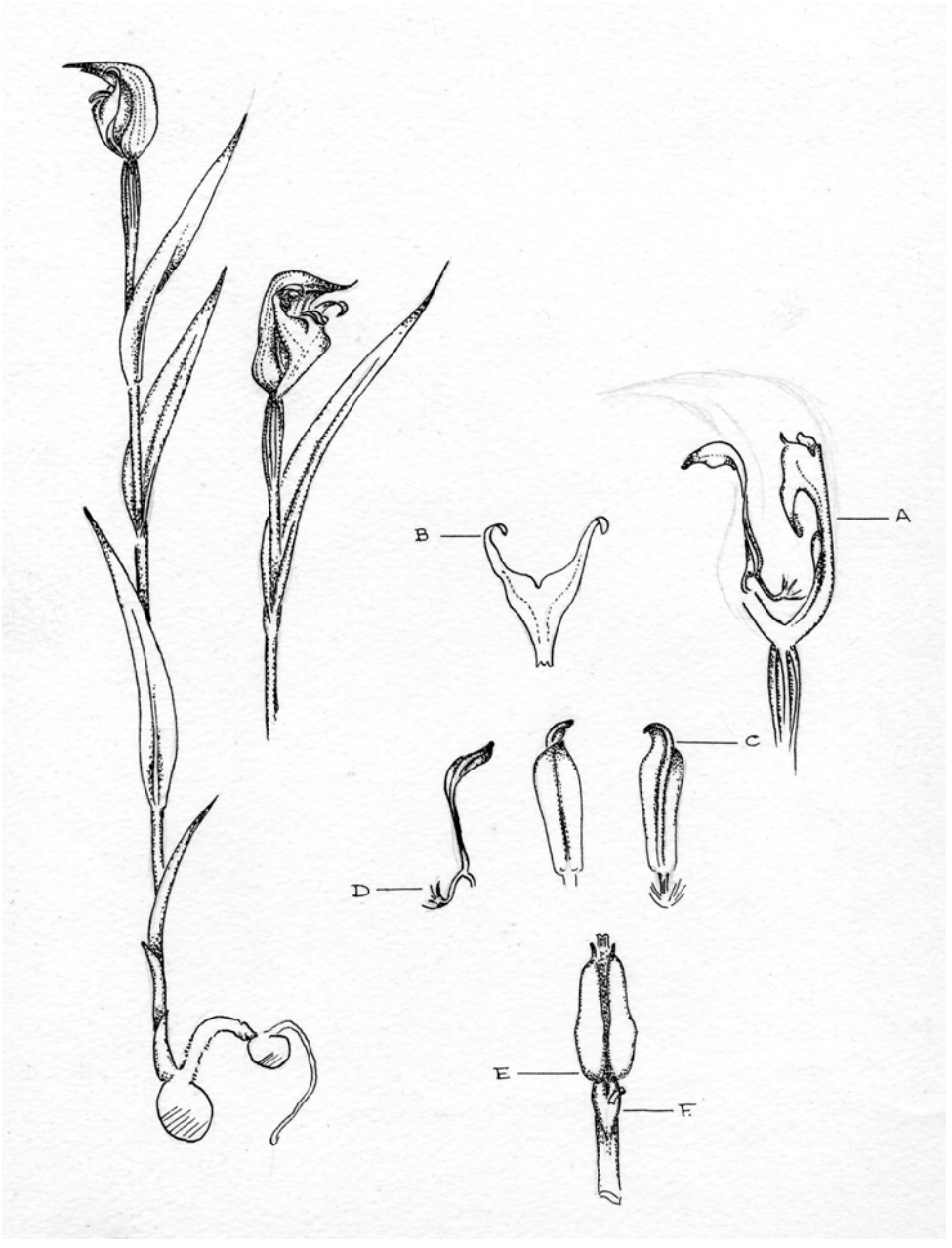

Plate 25: *Pterostylis montana sensu* Moore

Plate 26: *Pterostylis montana sensu* Hatch, generally regarded as *P.* aff. *montana*

Notes on the plates by Bruce Irwin

Plate 1: a common species, *Acianthus sinclairii.*

Plate 2: *Aporostylis bifolia*, unfinished drawing probably done at Mt Taranaki, or perhaps in 1957 at Arthur's Pass.

Plate 3: Labelled "Gnat orchid, Hamilton", but probably from Lake D at Horotiu, in 1949. *Cyrtostylis oblongus.*

Plate 4: *Drymoanthus adversus.* A flowering plant (life size), enlargements of flowers, and a plant compared with the fern *Polypodium serpens* (now *Phymatosorus serpens*).

Plate 5: *Molloybas cryptanthus.* Possibly painted from specimens collected by Owen between Warkworth and Wellsford where he discovered the species. The illustrations show plants at the fruiting stage after elongation of the peduncle has raised the seedpod well clear of the leaf mould which almost completely covered the flowers.

Plate 6: Labelled *Corybas macranthus* var. *longipetalus.* Identities uncertain but now regarded as two of the several taxa within *Nematoceras rivularis s.l.*

Plate 7: Labelled *Corybas* hybrid, Wanganui. This is *Nematoceras orbiculatum.* The drawing is of cultivated plants collected 15km northeast of Wanganui in 1947.

Plate 8: Lifesize, of two colour forms of *Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae.*

Plate 9: *Pterostylis foliata*, Mt Pirongia. This watercolour was painted in 1949 (probably October).

Plate 10: Very short plants of *Pterostylis irsoniana* with floral details in outline. This species was first discovered by Owen at North Egmont in December 1947. The painting was probably made then, or in 1948.

Plate 11: *Pterostylis irsoniana*, Pouakai Range. Probably drawn soon after Owen's discovery of this new species on Mt Egmont in 1947.

Plate 12: *Pterostylis montana*, Pouakai Range. Recognised by the "chunky" flower with short lateral sepal tips, which, unlike most *Pterostylis*, are flat, not curved inward to form thin tubes. As a result these sepal tips usually droop forward as the flower matures. The dark labellum is always strongly twisted to the right (as viewed from the front).

Plate 13: Labelled *Pterostylis* hybrid, Pouakai Range, but almost certainly the undescribed species *P.* aff. *montana*. When *P. montana* was first described, the distinctness of this plant was not recognised. *P.* aff. *montana* has a more slender flower, with longer sepal tips which are usually tubular though occasionally flat. The stigma is longer and less protruding, and the labellum, although often twisted to the right, is seldom as strongly twisted as in *P. montana*. This plant shows much variation in the field.

Plate 14: *Pterostylis oliveri*, drawn at Arthurs Pass during January 1957, when Owen and I spent a few days searching for orchids. That was the last trip we shared.

Plate 15: Labelled *Pterostylis banksii* var. *patens*, but now regarded as a species in its own right under the name *P. patens*. This drawing is of freshly opened flowers before dorsal sepals have turned sharply downward and lateral sepals have reflexed fully. At this stage it closely resembles *P. banksii.*

Plate 16: Labelled *Pterostylis nana,* Silverdale. Now regarded as distinct from Australian plants, so its original name, *Pterostylis puberula* has been reinstated (recently also named *Linguella puberula*). Drawn from plants collected 17 October 1949, during our trip to the far north when Owen discovered *Molloybas cryptanthus.*

Plate 17: Labelled *Pterostylis barbata,* Hamilton. New Zealand plants are now regarded as *Pterostylis tasmanica* (recently also named *Plumatichilos tasmanicum*). Probably actually from Lake Horotiu where I found a thriving colony in October 1949. Within a year or two, land development destroyed this and other rare orchids.

Plate 18: *Thelymitra formosa.* Probably Ngaere Swamp.

Plate 19: *Townsonia deflexa,* recorded for the first time in the North Island by Owen in January 1949. The painting must be of plants collected by him at that time on Ruapehu.

Plate 20: *Lyperanthus antarcticus*, Arthur's Pass. Now known as *Waireia stenopetala.* Drawn during our stay there in January 1957.

Plate 21: Two colour forms of the epiphyte *Winika cunninghamii.*

Plate 22: A *Pterostylis* species, most probably *P. patens* (see Plate 15). Floral details enlarged: A. column and labellum; B. column from front; C. labellum, inner surface; D. appendage of labellum from side.

Plate 23: *Pterostylis foliata* (see Plate 10). Details enlarged: A. labellum and column from side; B. ovary; C. labellum from behind and from side; D. appendage of labellum; F. bases of column wings from front with, to the right, column from front and from side; G. stout, almost heart shaped stigma.

Plate 24: *Pterostylis irsoniana*. The small stature indicates that plants were probably growing in an exposed position (see Plate 11). They can be 350mm tall. Details enlarged: A. labellum and column from side, galea shown dotted; B. column from side, with lateral sepals to the left; C. tip of labellum on drawings from side and from rear; D. diagnostic dark callus at base of labellum as seen from side, also labellum from front; E. column wings from front; F. stigma; G. prominent midlobe of labellum ending in a projecting callus, as seen from side; H. lacinate tip of labellum appendage.

Plate 25: *Pterostylis montana* (see Plate 13). Details enlarged: A. labellum, column and ovary from side; B. lateral sepals, their margins flat, not inrolled as in most other species. On mature flowers these sepal tips often droop as shown; C. labellum from rear, showing prominent raised midrib. To the left, labellum from front showing tip strongly twisted to the right; D. labellum from side; E. column wings from front; F. stigma.

Plate 26: An unnamed *Pterostylis*, *P.* aff. *montana* which is often confused with *P. montana* (see Plate 9). Details enlarged: A. labellum and column (galea indicated, dotted); B. lateral sepals with narrow tips which exceed galea; C. column from side and from front; D. three views of labellum from front/side, from front, and from rear; E. column from front, stigma narrow oval; F. appendage of labellum from side. *Pterostylis* aff. *montana* was not recognised as a separate species when these drawings were made. The fact that Owen drew both suggests he suspected that two species were involved.

Orchids of the Egmont Ranges

O. E. Gibson, E. D. Hatch, J. B. Irwin

(Wellington Botanical Society *Bulletin* 1953; 26: 6-8)

In the account of his ascent of Mt. Egmont in February 1867, John Buchanan wrote (Reports of Geological Exploration No. 4): "Although all who go up do not collect plants still many do, and probably no locality in New Zealand has been better searched. Plants have been passing to Britain from there through various channels for many years. All idea therefore, of finding much novelty may be dismissed, and the result of the present expedition has proved that the botany of this isolated mountain was well ascertained prior to my visit."

Buchanan recorded about 180 species of flowering plants and ferns from Mt. Egmont and neighbourhood, and to this day his list remains the only published attempt at a complete enumeration. (An unpublished list, compiled by Cockayne, is deposited at the Dawson Falls Hostel.) Needless to say, Buchanan was mistaken in his views as to how well Mt. Egmont had been searched; since 1867 many other plants have been found there and the flora is now known to contain over 400 species.

The present contribution on the botany of the Egmont Ranges deals with the orchids only, which number twenty-eight as compared with the four determined by Buchanan in 1867. The notes on distribution have been condensed from much detailed information contributed by each of the three botanists who have studied the orchids in this part of New Zealand. Besides Mt. Egmont itself, (8260 feet) the Egmont Ranges include the Pouakai Range (4590 feet) and the Kaitake Range (2240 feet), respectively five miles and eleven miles N.N.W. of Mt. Egmont. All three areas are included in the Egmont National Park – Ed.

Acianthus fornicatus var. *sinclairii.* Kaitake Ra. and Ratapihipihi Reserve (near New Plymouth), in bush, not common.

Aporostylis bifolia. Pouakai and Kaitake Ranges, at quite low altitudes (Kiri clearing 1500 feet, near summit of Kaitake Ra. 2200 feet); Egmont, up to 5500 feet, most common in the herbfield and scrub, but also seen along tracks and river-banks lower down. Both linear and ovate-leaved plants have been seen in the same colony.

Bulbophyllum pygmaeum. Base of the Kaitake Ra.

Caladenia carnea var. *minor*. Kaitake Ra., near summit; Pouakai Ra., plentiful on hill near base (1000 feet) and in the Paul's Falls area (2500 feet), in light bush.

Chiloglottis cornuta. Sea level to 4000 feet, usually occurring in small colonies in partial shade, but plentiful in pine and gum plantations on the lower slopes of the Kaitake Ra.

Corybas trilobus. Sea level to 4000 feet, but not common on the Pouakai or Kaitake Ranges; common in bush nearer New Plymouth. This species usually grows in drier situations than do the other species of *Corybas.*

C. oblongus. Sea level to 3500 feet, more common at the base of the Pouakai and Kaitake Ranges than elsewhere.

C. rivularis. Egmont and northern slopes of the Pouakai Ra., 2500-3000 feet.

C. macranthus var. *longipetalus.* (syn. *Corysanthes rotundifolia* of Cheeseman in the Manual, but not the original *C. rotundifolia* of Hooker). Sea-level to 3200 feet, but mostly below 2500 feet, abundant along all the rocky mountain streams. *C. macranthus* var. *typicus* appears to be absent from the Egmont Ranges, not having been seen nearer than the Awakino Gorge (north of New Plymouth).

Dendrobium cunninghamii. This and the following are common throughout the lower bush country.

Earina autumnalis.

E. mucronata.

Gastrodia cunninghamii. Egmont, Waiwakaiho R. at 3500 feet.

Microtis unifolia. Open country and clearings up to 1500 feet.

Orthoceras strictum. In second growth up to 1000 feet; also on summit of Goat Rock, Kaitake Ra., at 1700 feet.

Prasophyllum colensoi. Egmont and Pouakai Ra., 1000-5500 feet, in clearings at low altitudes, in herbfield and bog at high altitudes.

Pterostylis irsoniana. Egmont and Pouakai Ra., 1500-4000 feet, common in clearings and in scrub.

Pterostylis venosa (syn. *P. confertifolia* Cockayne and Allan). Usually 3000-3500 feet, rarely seen at lower altitudes and then only in the smaller second-growth (Kiri clearing 1500 feet); large colonies on the south (Egmont) side of the Pouakai Ra.

P. humilis. Egmont, 3200-4000 feet: only seen once on the Pouakai Ra. *P. humilis* flowers two to three weeks later than *P. venosa.*

P. montana var. *typica.* Pouakai and Kaitake Ranges in clearings and second-growth, usually below 1500 feet but occasionally at greater altitudes (summit of Kaitake Ra. 2200 feet, Mangorei Hut 3200 feet); Egmont, in clearing on north side at 3100 feet.

P. graminea. Pouakai Ra., several places on the western slopes between 1500 and 2500 feet, not common.

P. trullifolia var. *alobula.* Recorded from Egmont (*Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z.,* 77: 246), but in error: the plants actually came from near Wanganui.

P. banksii var. *patens.* Egmont and Pouakai Ra. 1500-4000 feet, plentiful in open places, scrub and along tracks, not so common in bush. At high altitudes the plants are smaller than lower down, but the flower remains about the same size. *P. banksii* var. *typica* has not been seen except near New Plymouth.

P. australis. Recorded from Egmont (*Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z.,* 77: 246), but further investigation on the variability of the groups within the *P. australis-banksii* complex is required. Probably only one, polymorphic, group is present (*P. banksii* var. *patens*).

Sarcochilus adversus. Base of the Kaitake Ra.

Thelymitra longifolia var. *forsteri.* Open country and clearings on lower slopes.

T. pachyphylla var. Recorded from the Pouakai Ra. (*Trans. Roy. 5oc. N.Z., 79:* 394).

T. decora. Pouakai Ra., at 2000 feet and in light scrub at 1000 feet.

T. venosa var. Between Egmont and the Pouakai Ra., bog at 3000 feet.

There is much here that new knowledge has made obsolete. Nematoceras macranthum, for instance, is present in the region. Bruce Irwin makes the point that he had little to do with the paper, though it is based on records by all three of those named as authors—Ed.

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