



Dear Member,

The International Orchid Show was a great sight and our grateful thanks to Gordon Sylvester for the many hours he spent organising the native display, The projector breaking down was a disaster, as the beautiful slides he had received were not seen, - see Gordon's article elsewhere.

A few name changes coming up in our flora I'm afraid. As noted in the last newsletter, Caladenia catenata is now back as Cal. carnea; the following article by Dan Hatch tells of Caladenia iridescens, and an article for newsletter 17 will discuss Corybas rivularis. (I'm afraid we have to keep up with the botanists!)

It is also noted in the September issue of 'The Orchadian' that the plants reported as Bulbophyllum tuberculatum on Lord Howe Island, NSW/ Queensland border and seemingly identical with plants now found on Norfolk Island, are apparently B. argyropus; the photograph with the article shows the pseudobulbs and flowers to be quite different from our B. tuberculatum, but as far as I know, B. tuberculatum (C. macrantha, unknown script addition) was correctly identified on Macquarie Island, so Australia can still claim it as occurring in their territory!

Well the main flowering season is underway. Happy hunting, please remember to look, record and photograph, but leave the plants for others to see, and help conserve our flora. Please report on your discoveries so we can all learn something more about our native orchids.

Dorothy Cooper,  
37 Waimea Road,  
Waikanae Beac.



Caladenia iridescens a new record for New Zealand

E.D. Hatch,  
Laingholm.

In the course of his researches at Kew, Mark Clements came on two NZ specimens of Caladenia iridescens. This puzzled him since the species had never been reported from New Zealand.

We exchanged notes and photographs and agreed that the plant I had described in 1963 as forma calliniger was in fact iridescens. Photographs from the Grampian Mountains in Victoria, and from the Waitakere Ranges, are so much alike that if the site details were removed one would assume that they were all from the same locality.

C. iridescens is recognised as a valid species in Australia and it is in order to use this name for the New Zealand plants.

CALADENIA IRIDESCENS R. S. Rogers Trans. Roy. Soc. South Austr.  
44: 1020. P.328, t. 13.

syn. Caladenia carnea R.Br. var. minor (Hook.f.) Hatch  
forma calliniger Matth. ex Hatch Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z.  
Bot. 2:1963. p.187

Distribution

Australia - southern NSW; western Victoria; Tasmania.  
New Zealand - North Island - Silverdale and Albany; Waitakere, Hunua  
and Coromandel Ranges; Rainbow Mountain, Rotorua; Waihaha, Taupo.

Not unlike C. carnea var. minor in general form, but the flower is dark green with red pubescence, the dorsal sepal strongly cucullate (Hood-shaped), and the labellum disc, midlobe and all calli a dark chocolate brown.





Finds in the Egmont National- Park and surrounds

Val Smith,  
22 Whiteley St.,  
New Plymouth

Orchids I have seen and photographed (not always successfully) here in Taranaki.

Drymoanthus adversus (a first for me) - mostly associated with lichen on tawa at the edge of bush on the Stony River Walkway. Several with old flower stems and new ones forming in March, plus one plant with very large seed capsules. In May the seed capsules had burst, revealing fine brown 'candyfloss' fibres. By October this particular plant had gone, leaving a patch of disturbed lichen and a few attached roots!

The flowering plants remaining were at their peak mid to end of October.

Bulbophyllum pygmaeum - found at Koru Pa, on rewarewa in the open, thanks to the Lands & Survey publication "Scenic Reserves of Western Taranaki".

My 3' stepladder enabled me to reach the lowest part of the colony where there were three tiny white flowers out in December.

Dendrobium cunninghamii - an especially good display of flowering clumps at bush edges on Puniho Track beginning of January.

Earina mucronata - immense clump seen in farm paddock at top of Ihaia Road near National Park boundary on 10 November, finished flowering.

Earina autumnalis - a hanging basket plant in my own garden flowered at the end of January, but I missed the later peak: flowering time in the Egmont bush where it is quite common.

Chiloglottis cornuta - several colonies in flower from end of November until end of December in North Egmont area, just above visitor centre, mostly growing in green moss at the base of Hall's Totara or Kaikawaka.

Corybas trilobus - on damp banks on Bendall Walk, New Plymouth, -and at Burgess Park, flowering at end of July but not as prolifically as previous year.

Corybas oblonga - on roadside on Carrington Road on Egmont National Park boundary, in flower end of October through to mid-November, some with plain green leaves, some striated, some dark-reddish tint. A few plants had double-headed flowers. Most of these banks have since been stripped and cut-back during road works. A colony near the Waiwhakaiho River in E.N.P. had very few flowers this year.

Corybas macranthus - in Lucy's Gully flowering prolifically in November; most of the flowers beneath the leaves with only the 'feelers' showing. However, a few plants had the flowers above the leaves and I photographed one of these.

Microtis unifolia - fairly common and widely spread; I photographed some in Blue Rata Reserve near Stony River 28 October, but the area is becoming overgrown with gorse.

Thelymitra (longifolia?) - Once again, the plants are quite widespread and common, but I was unable to find any flowers open this year.

Prasophyllum colensoi - fairly common on the tussock-herbfield level on the mountain, flowering December-January.

Aporostylis bifolia - fairly common in higher swampy areas and moss slopes, and a few colonies at edge of upper limit of bush, flowering mid-December to early January.

Pterostylis - many of the species I am unable to identify, but Pt. venosa (Nov.) was flowering well at North Egmont and on Maude Track on the Pouakai Range, and Pt. banksii var. patens is always a delight at North Egmont in December.

Caladenia carnea (I think!) - growing spasmodically up the Puniho Track but I missed the flowers. On 6 January they showed fruiting stems with one and sometimes two seed capsules on each, (identified even when not in flower by hairy stems - Ed.)

Gastrodia - (not sure which species) have been coming up in a certain area of Pukekura quite regularly now, flowering in early December. Unfortunately my flashgun malfunctioned, and when I got back to them three weeks later they were finished.

