NEW ZEALAND NATIVE ORCHID GROUP

Newsletter no.16 December 1985

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, <u>Caladenia catenata</u> is now back as <u>Caladenia</u>; the following article by <u>Dan Hatch tells of Caladenia</u> iridescens, and and qn article for newsletter 17 will discuss <u>Corybas rivularis</u>. (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 <u>Bulbophyllum tuberculatum</u> on Lord Howe Island, NSW/ Queensland border and seemingly identical with plants now found on Norfolk Island, are apparently <u>B. argyropus</u>; the photograph with the article shows the pseudobulbs and flowers to be quite different from our <u>B, tuberculatum</u>, but as far as I know, <u>B. tuberculatum</u> (<u>C. macrantha</u>, 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 <u>Caladenia iridescens</u>. This pussled hime sice 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 <u>calliniger</u> was in fact <u>iridescens</u>. 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.

<u>C. iridescens</u> 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. <u>Caladenia carnea</u> R.Br. <u>var.minor</u> (Hook.f.)Hatch forma <u>calliniger</u> 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 $\underline{\text{C. carnea}}$ var. $\underline{\text{minor}}$ in general form, but the flower is dark green with red pubescence, the dorsal sepal strongly cucullate (Hood-shaped), and the lbellum disc, midlobe and all calli a dark chocolate brown.

Second International. Orchid Conference. Oct. 1965.

Gordon Sylvester.

The Orchid Conference has come and gone, our group display attracted its fair share of attention despite the fact that it was finally sited in the commercial sales area. The display suffered an equipment malfunction on the first day, the borrowed projector suffered severe damage and couldn't be replaced, so all those beautiful slides weren't seen! Despite this the remainder of the display was passive and informative. Thanks to a member of Capital City Orchid Society named Paul who assisted, me to set up, Ken Grange helped in the collection of moss and ferns as did Graham Robertson in the collection of material and transport. For actual material display the drawings and paintings of Bruce Irwin must earn 1st place, together with Bob Goodger's large collection of slides. In addition, material was loaned by Dot Cooper, Colin Ogle, Ian St. George, Kevin Luff. Ken Grange, Phil Tomlinson, George Fuller, Dick Reichenbach, Christel Mills, Betty Cullen, Doug McCrea, Dan Hatch, Phil Chandler, Tony Druce, Chris Ecroyd, and Jeff Rodger. If anyone has been missed out, my apologies.

Slides of almost all the recognised species in the flora were obtained except $\underline{\text{Pt. humilis}}$ and four unidentified species. The herbarium material all from a private collection showed 39 species including 2 unidentified ones.

Various native orchids were also used in Society displays,
-including <u>Earina mucronata</u>, <u>E. autumnalis</u>, <u>D. cunninghamii</u>, <u>Drymoanthus adversus</u>, <u>Chiloglottis cornuta</u> and <u>gunnii</u>, <u>Calochilus paludosus</u>,
<u>Acianthus fornicatus</u>, <u>Corybas orbiculatus</u>, <u>Pterostylis banksii</u>, <u>graminea</u>,
<u>plumosa</u> and an unidentified sp, <u>Thelymitra carnea</u>, <u>pauciflora</u> and another unidentified.

One obvious question asked was whether the group had meetings. I would venture to suggest that where possible a list of subscribers be distributed and where an opportunity arises an informal meeting be held.

Tongar<u>iro National Park</u> - January 1984

Kevin Luff, Wanganui.

Michael Pratt and myself made a trip to this area to follow up two recordings of Prasophyllum patens which Archie Grant made about 10 years ago. We had great success with one area which is situated just outside the Park boundary near Taurewa. We investigated the swamp and found - \underline{P} . \underline{patens} . The habitat was very similar to that described by Dan Hatch in an earlier article. The Prasophyllum grew away from any hummocks of plants, grew in mud which had about 2cm covering of water, and only one other plant grew in the same habitat as \underline{P} . \underline{patens} and this was a small sedge that I don't know the name of. In the small area of swamp we investigated we found about 20 plants, just beginning to open their flowers. \underline{P} . \underline{patens} is easily distinguished from \underline{P} . colensoi by the very prominent white labellum. Only two other species of orchid were seen in the swamp and these were \underline{T} \underline{T}

I'm not sure about the future of this swamp because recently I drove past it and the surrounding area has been flattened for pines. Whether the pines will do anything to the swamp I don't know. In the other area we investigated we did not have as much success. The swamp is situated on the side of the Chateau Road inside the Park boundary. We found a colony of about 3 Prasophyllum plants in the typical habitat but none were flowering. However several other orchids were seen. Quite common throughout the swamp were Thelymitra venosa, (blue) and T. pulchella. Scattered plants of T. formosa, T. pauciflora, T. longifolia, T. decora and Aporostylis bifolia were also seen. All these species were seen away from the swamp in scrub along with Microtis unifolia, Orthoceras strictum and Prasophyllum colensoi. Pterostylis micromega was also reported in the swamp by Archie Grant but we could not find it.

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 oblongua - 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.

<u>Microtis unifolia</u> - 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.

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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.

Egmont in December.

Caladenia carnea (I think!) - growing spasmodically up the Puniho Track but 1 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.)

<u>Gastrodia</u> - (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.

Orthoceras strictum - I was very excited to find my first one of these, on a clay bank at the Tongaporutu end of the white Cliffs Walkway - two plants only, flowering on 18 December.

Those are my finds to date. I would be very grateful to know of any locations in this area (Egmont National Park - Taranaki) of other orchids which I could photograph. I am very keen to find <u>Acianthus fornicatus</u> <u>Caladenia lyallii</u>, <u>Corybas rivularis</u>. <u>Spiranthes sinensis</u> and others, which are listed on A.P. Druce's checklist of plants of the Egmont area, but which have so far eluded me, so would welcome any information which might help me.

Orchid Trips 1984 (continued)

Beryl & Bob Goodger
Tauranga

Dec.8th. A trip to Whakamarama (Kaimais) with some other keen folk from the Tauranga Orchid Soc. Saw Prasophyllum colensoi, some flowering; masses of Caladenia carnea flowering around us as we had lunch. Some very tall Chiloglottis cornuta flowering. Thelymitra pauciflora, very deep blue, also Longifolia and hatchii, and Microtis, Corybas trilobus, rivularis and Oblongus. We ended the year with a trip to Taranaki to spend Christmas with half of our family (a son in Okato and a daughter in Opunake) but managed some 'outings' we were sad to see the track to the Stony River in the Blue Rata Reserve becoming blocked by blackberry and gorse between the bush track and the river. We were not able to penetrate the growth, so did not reach the river there. However, we drove on up the road and then made our way down to the river, where we found Prasophyllum colensoi.

(The Stony River walkway at Okato has many excellent specimens of Drymomathus adversus, as well as BulbophyHum pygmaeum, and an eye-catching Dendrobium cunninghanii with a mass of flowers at eye level.) The North Egmnont Summit Track on Dec. 26th was more rewarding. A beautiful day without cloud showed Th.longifolia and hatchis flowering, also Prasophyllum colensoi and Corybas trilobus and Macranthus had seedpods. A few Pt.banksii were still flowering, but much much more so was var. patens, which was everywhere, some very strongly coloured. Pt.humilis-seedpods, but some Pt.venosa still in bud. Great to get our first sight of Pt.irsoniana, flowering on very short stems.

What we had gone to see especially, was *Aporostylis bifolia, which we thought should be flowering but we were 2 days too early. However, two days later, in heavy mist and drizzle, on the Stratford Plateau, Bob found some flowering just off the main track, so came to get me and the camera to record the first sighting for us of the flower of Aporostylis bifolia. The three flowers were only half open, but we could not go and look for others as the mist obscured even the other cars in the car park, so we returned to the foot of the mountain and beautiful weather. On our two visits to the Stratford Plateau, the mist has come down, so we were lucky to find these plants in these conditions, so close to the path, and the carpark.

1985 has started well with a trip to Pureora Forest to see *Prasophyllum patens, flowering in the middle of a swamp and a stop on the forest road to inspect some plants growing under pines, produced *Gastrodia minor. showing seedpods.

Went over to the Rotorua area on Feb. 1st to check on <u>Spiranthes</u> <u>sinensis</u>, but we found only 7 plants, compared to 19 last year A the plants ware also smaller with fewer flowers. We reckon that we only have approximately 40 more species of N.Z. native orchids to find but we are heading in the right direction! Looking forward to the main flowering season when we will be off to new locations and also back to some of the old ones to check up on some of our friends.

^{*} denotes first sightings for us of plants or flowers