



Dear Member,

I'm afraid it's time to make a plea again for more articles for this newsletter. With 130 or so members, we should be able to have a continuing supply of material, - just think, if everyone wrote just one article, we would have enough to keep the newsletter going for years! So come on, write and tell us of your finds, your questions, any problems, or about an interesting article read elsewhere, - like articles in Australian newsletters about 'smoking' their orchids to simulate bush fires to induce flowering, or 'ripening' them in the banana room with ethylene gas! I receive so many letters telling me how much members enjoy receiving this newsletter, - please give me something to put in it!

My grateful thanks to those who do take the trouble to drop me a line, I do appreciate it and I'm sorry I do not get around to answering every letter; one of these days we will probably have all our notes registered on a computer, and once our mapping programme is underway there will be something for everyone to do.

Happy hunting over the coming months when things start to get really - active again, and please do share your discoveries with the Group.

Dorothy Cooper,
37 Waimea Road,
Waikanae.



ORCHID FINDS 1985

Dean writes:

This season I have found 8 new species: Pterostylis mutica? - in seed so I'll have to wait for next season to find out which species it is; Adenochilus gracilis - this was in seed also but with its distinct leaf I was able to identify it; Pterostylis australis? - similar to P. banksii but the leaves were shorter and broader, the dorsal sepal was shorter and the labellum broad with a rounded tip; Corybas rivularis - this orchid was also in seed, its leaf looks very distinct tapering to a sharp point; Thelymitra venosa - flowers were in bud and could have been immature because they were white with no stripes; Orthoceras strictum, Prasophyllum nudum and Drymoanthus adversus were the most interesting finds. I found only 2 plants of O.strictum in flower. I found 11 plants of Pr. nudum which I first thought may have been a Thelymitra shoot until I found one in flower. Drymoanthus adversus was growing on the lower branches of beech trees by the Nile River. All the orchids found at Charleston were found along the Darkies Terrace Road, which provides access to a walking track into the Nile caves.

Some comments: Adenochilus as Dean points out is one of those easily recognised orchids even when not in flower, with its shiny green leaf one third of the way up the stem on a flowering or seeding specimen, usually growing in damp, shaded conditions. Corybas rivularis, see Dean's sketch, is now called C. acuminatus (see Newsletter no.17) - I received. Dean's article before that was printed, with such a distinctive leaf this one is also easy to identify. Dean also points out that in a bud of a Thelymitra no colour is seen until shortly before opening, so if dissecting a bud for identification, examine the top of the column, as characteristics of colour, spots and stripes, are absent in immature specimens. Dean does not mention the colour of his Orthoceras flowers, but these can be quite variable and often spectacular, from yellow/green, reds to almost black. Whether this is due to altitude, growing position in relation to sun, or soil types, we will perhaps learn after further studies. Prasophyllum nudum looks like a sedge or perhaps a young Thelymitra so it is exciting to find the tiny flowers atop a stem. Thanks Dean, all these points help those not familiar with the species to identify it when it is found.

Coopers Creek East Branch 21/9/85

Thelymitra sp. - growing on rocks in lichen, red leaves, lot of little plants Corybas trilobus - on wet dripping bank, soil 0-5mm deep, some roots exposed plants were in flower, biggest patch - 60 flowers, in complete shade.

Coopers Creek West Branch 21/9/85

Thelymitra sp. - growing on dry bank in black fungus (from beech trees). Also, 12 bunches under beech in dry moss and black fungus.

Corybas trilobus - on wet bank in shade, biggest patch had 21 flowers. They were also growing in leaf litter 10-15m above the river. Flowers were first seen on 14/9/85, past their best by 5/10/85 when seed stalks were developing.

Ashley Gorge

Corybas macranthus - by river in moss under native bush and gorse, 5 flowers seen. It also occurs on top of the cliff above the river, under manuka in damp ground. In 1984 flowering as early as 30/9, at their peak first half of November. On the 9/11/85 I counted more than 134 plants in flower from 8 different patches.

Corybas trilobus 19/10/85 - in bog under manuka, 10 flowers seen.

Pterostylis banksii - in damp ground under manuka at top of cliff, flowers at peak early December.

Pterostylis areolata - in same conditions as P. banksii. in flower 9/11/85. All plants had either 3 or 4 leaves, average height at flowering 8.5cm. Pterostylis montana - same conditions as above, in flower 1/12/85. Pterostylis irsoniana - same conditions as above, only one plant seen, flower 1/12/85

Caladenia carnea - growing under manuka on cliff top, in flower 1/12/85, pink. Microtis unifolia - on open sunny bank, in flower 1/12/85. Thelymitra longifolia - with M. unifolia in sunny conditions, not in flower.

Ahuriri Reserve

Pterostylis graminea - in flower 12/10/85, under-native bush.

Pt. areolata - along the edge of native bush, in flower 30/11/85, peak November.

Thelymitra longifolia - in grass in exposed conditions.

Waterfall Track (north of Ashley Gorge)

17/11/85

Thelymitra sp. - along track edge in sunny conditions.

Chiloglottis cornuta - in black fungus next to beech trees, in flower.

Caladenia carnea - flower stalks developing.

Corybas trilobus - in seed.

Pterostylis graminea - in scree under native bush, in flower.

Pterostylis banksii - flower stalks developing.

McLeans Island

8/12/85

Thelymitra longifolia - in light shade under pines, in flower, white, also pink.

Thelymitra pauciflora - light shade under pines, in flower, blue-mauve.

Microtis unifolia - in flower.

View Hill (Oxford)

14/12/85

Thelymitra longifolia - most plants in open grassland, some along track; most had reddish leaves, some flowers were open.

Thelymitra pauciflora - in open grassland, in flower, light mauve, some almost white.

Th. hatchii - in open places along track, mauve-blue, some almost in flower others immature.

Pterostylis montana - in black fungus under beech by access road.

Pt. banksii - on wet bank by track, some flowers, most past their best.

Pterostylis ?mutica - in open grassland, in seed, leaves starting to shrivel, older leaves decaying at base of plant also. Plants up to 12.5cm tall with up to 8 seed heads.

Corybas trilobus - above track, plants in seed.

Chiloglottis cornuta - along track, some in flower, most past their best. One had 2 flowers, but 1 flower had no labellum and one petal missing.

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Microtis unifolia - in open grassland, very common.

Prasophyllum colensoi - 4 plants by track, more common in grassland. Plants had up to 25 flowers, some flower stalks red others were green. Gastrodia sp.- could have been G. minor. Plant was 21cm tall and had 6 flowers developing, flowers too small for identification.

Lewis River 27/12/85

Pterostylis irsoniana - in flower, in shade under scrub.

Pt. areolata - flowers past their best, under scrub.

Corybas sp.-no flowers.

Prasophyllum colensoi - flowers past their best, by side of road in grass.

Marble Hill 27 & 28/12/85

Microtis unifolia - in flower, in grass on edge of forest.

Prasophyllum colensoi - flowers past their best, with M. unifolia in grassland.

Chiloglottis cornuta - flowers past their best, under beech forest.

Adenochilus gracilis - in seed, in moss and beech litter in forest, some on mossy logs.

Corybas sp.-most likely 2 species, one in beech litter, either on wet bank by creek.

Thelymitra longifolia - plants in grassland going to seed, those under beech still in bud.

Gastrodia cunninghamii - in flower, in beech litter, plants up to 84cm tall with up to 30 flowers.

Pterostylis irsoniana -most flowers past their best.

Pterostylis montana - flowers past their best.

Pterostylis australis - flowers past their best, dorsal sepal shorter and leaves more rounded and shorter than P. banksii.

Lankeys Greek 30/12/85

Chiloglottis cornuta - flowers past their best.

Pterostylis irsoniana - flowers past their best.

Gastrodia Cunninghamii - in flower, some with seed-heads.

Corybas rivularis - in seed; leaves inconspicuous in damp conditions in complete shade; possibly 2 other species also growing in damp conditions.

Adenochilus gracilis -in seed.

Thelymitra pulchella -buds close to opening, in open sun, flowers mauve with darker blue stripes, also white form.

Thelymitra venosa - in bud, white with no apparent stripes, could have been immature.

Aporostylis bifolia - past their best, under bush in shade.

Slab Hut Creek 30/12/85

Corybas rivularis

Gastrodia cunninghamii - some flowers, others in seed.

Corybas rivularis - only leaves seen, in damp conditions.

Adenochilus gracilis - in seed.

Microtis unifolia - flowers past their best, growing in the open.

Pterostylis sp. - no flowers.

Charleston: Darkies Tcr Rd: lat.42 54' 30" 1/1/86

Microtis unifolia - flowers past their best.

Thelymitra pulchella - flowers lilac with darker mauve stripes, also white form, on open sunny banks and in pakihi.

Orthoceras strictum - 2 plants in flower, in open sun, 3 young plants also seen

Prasophyllum nudum -in flower, on stony grass bank in sun, 11 plants seen, some still only shoots, plants up to 17.0cm tall.

Caladenia carnea - in seed, some 2 seed heads, under manuka.

Gastrodia cunninghamii - in flower, under macrocarpa trees.

Earina autumnalis - no flowers, in macrocarpa branches.

Dendrobium cunninghamii - in flower, growing in macrocarpa.

Pterostylis irsoniana - flowers past their best.

Drymoanthus adversus - in seed, growing on branches of beech.

Porarari River Track 2/1/86

Earina autumnalis - no flowers, old flower stalks present. E. mucronata - in flower, on nikaus, tree ferns; D. cunninghamii - in flower.

Pterostylis sp. past flowering, in seed. Corybas sp. ditto. Microtis unifolia, in flower.



