NEW ZEALAND NATIVE ORCHID GROUP

Newsletter no.19 December 1986

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!

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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 gracils - 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,
PrasophyHum 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.

Dean Pebdrigh

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.

<u>Corybas trilobus</u> 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 1/1 2/65

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.

<u>Caladenia carnea</u> - flower stalks developing.

Corybas trilobus - in seed.

tall with up to 8 seed heads.

Pterostylis graminea -in scree under native bush, in flower.
Pterostylis banksii - flower stalks developing.

McLeans Island 8/1 2/85

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)

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

<u>Corybas trilobus</u> - above track, plants in seed.

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

Microtis unifolia - in open grassland, very common. <u>Prasophyllum colensoi</u> - 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 <u>Pterostylis irsoniana</u> - in flower, in shade under scrub. <u>Pt. areolata</u> - flowers past their best, under scrub. Corybas sp.-no flowers. Prasoohyllum colensoi - flowers past their best, by side of road in grass. Marble Hill 27 & 28/12/85 <u>Microtis unifolia</u> - in flower, in grass on edge of forest. <u>Prasophyllum colensoi</u> - flowers past their best, with <u>M. unifolia</u> 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. <u>Gastrodia cunninghamii</u> - 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. <u>Pterostylis australis</u> - flowers past their best, dorsal sepal shorter and leaves more rounded and shorter than <u>P. banksii</u>. 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. <u>Corybas rivularis</u> - in seed; leaves inconspiuousin 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. Corybas Slab Hut Creek 30/12/85 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. <u>Pterostylis</u> 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; <u>D. cunninghamii</u> - in flower.

<u>Pterostylis</u> sp. past flowering, in seed. <u>Corybas</u> sp. ditto. <u>Microtis</u>

unifolia, in flower.

Pterostylis nutans - the case of the wandering gunpost

In the <u>Botany of Auckland</u> 2:1943,p.2, Lucy Cranwell wrote- "... a few additions ... (including <u>Pterostylis matthewsii</u> from a gunpost! ...)" and on page 43» in the checklist -

"<u>Pterostylis matthewsii</u>. North Shore, very rare".

In 1945, in the course of working up a paper on Pterostylis, I examined Dr Cranwell's voucher material. The collection sheet (AK 108497) consists of 5 rather shrivelled flowering specimens. Presumably the plants had been gathered and carried about for some time before pressing. The label in (I think) Miss Molesworth's handwriting read -

"<u>Pterostylis matthewsii</u> Cheesem. - gunpost Whangaparaoa ? during 1942". Attached to the sheet was a slip in Dr Cranwell's writing - "<u>Pterostylis matthewsii</u> - gunpost Whangaparaoa ? see corresp. spring 1942"

I crossed out the matthewsii on the label, wrote nutans R.Br. above it, initialled the alteration and went on my way.

In <u>Trans.R.S.N.Z</u>. 77:1949,p.237 I included Whangaparaoa in the NZ distribution of Pt. nutans, and mentioned it in both the 1951 and 1959 editions of Auckland's Orchids.

But in 1963, when Dr Cranwell was beginning her long haul towards a third edition of the Botany of Auckland, she queried my reference to Whangaparaoa.

"I found this species over on the Shore, by a gunpost above Campbell's Bay, on heavy pipeclay, bared in parts by the military stationed there. The plants were quite near the edge of the sea cliff".

I replied that the slip was in her own handwriting, and sent her a xerox of the sheet to prove it. It transpired that she had in fact visited Whangaparaoa on that same trip and had become a trifle confused

over the insert slips.
On second thoughts she was also fairly sure that the gunpost in question was not at Campbell's Bay, but at Castor Bay!
Meanwhile Dr Moore, working from the

herbarium sheet in AK, and unaware of all this confusing correspondence, also cited Whangaparaoa in Flora NZ 2:1970,p.137.

Eventually AK 108497 was emended by Dr Cranwell on one of her trips home, and a new label now reads -

"Pterosty<u>lis nutans</u> R.Br, Castor Bay, gunpost, L.M. Cranwell, spring 1942" and is signed -

"Lucy M.Cranwell, corrected 19.4.79". The original handwritten "Whangaparaoa ?" slip is still attached to the sheet.
