

In 1871 a paper entitled 'Botany of the Titirangi District', by T.F.Cheeseman, appeared in the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute. At that time the term 'Titirangi' had not acquired its present restricted sense, but was loosely applied to the whole region west of the Whau Creek to the coast, and from Muriwai to the Manukau Harbour. The paper accordingly covers about twice the area of what are commonly called the Waitakere Ranges. In this paper Cheeseman commences with a short botanical description of the area, discusses a selected number of plants, then proceeds with a list of all known species of phanerogams, ferns and lycopods. The total number of native species listed is 463, which he regards as a rich flora for so small an area, especially as a substantial proportion of the hilly parts of the area was covered in heavy virgin forest which he had not been able to explore, and when this is done he thinks the number will be considerably increased. He considers that no block of land elsewhere in New Zealand would yield such a number of species.

Of Cheeseman's 463 species in this list, eight should be discarded as introduced, two are hybrids, and four have since been merged with others. This leaves 449 true native species. Seven of these are mentioned as new species, not previously described or named, and 182 have since suffered name changes (not counting minor differences in spelling).

There are ten species mentioned which are not in this Society's 1962 Jubilee booklet, and I list them here in the hope that some readers of this note may be stimulated to search for them, with both Cheeseman's and present name if changed. The assistance of Mr. Hatch in making this check is gratefully acknowledged.

<u>Carex forsteri</u>	<u>Metrosideros albiflora</u>
<u>Carex raoullii</u>	<u>Myriophyllum pedunculatum</u>
<u>Gnaphalium involucreatum</u>	<u>Potamogeton natans</u>
<u>Gunnera prorepens</u>	<u>Tupelia antarctica</u>
<u>Lagenophora petiolata</u>	<u>Zostera marina (tasmanica)</u>

A separate list in Cheeseman's paper contains the names of 110 naturalised plants.

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 FAIRY FALLS - June 17 1967 - - - M. Barr

The Fairy Falls reserve in the Waitakere Ranges is an unspoiled section of our local bush at its best, and here we spent a pleasant and interesting day under the capable leadership of Miss M.Crookes. On leaving the Scenic Drive at the entrance to the track, our attention was drawn to clumps of Blechnum minus growing in close proximity to its more common relation Blechnum

capense. Along the pleasant, well-graded track to the top of the falls, there was ample time and opportunity to become re-acquainted with old favourites. Ferns in profusion hanging from tree trunks and covering mossy logs; huge masses of Dendrobium cunninghamii high on trees; Coprosma, particularly australis, in flower and fruit; the native olives, Olea lanceolata and montana with Mida salicifolia were all discovered, as well as Ixerba brexioides which in this area, is confined to the tops of the ridges. There was much Metrosideros fulgens in flower and we also saw M. robusta, and the 2 white ratas, M. perforata and diffusa. Among the trees kohekohe, rimu and miro were prevalent, while the small orchid, Acianthus fornicatus sinclairii was plentiful beneath. As the top of the falls is approached the bush changes to kauri forest with its accompanying tanekaha, Corokia and spiderwood. After a scramble down the steep track among the kauri and tawa with the cascading falls on our left, we stopped for lunch above the final fall. Here Miss Crookes gave a very interesting talk on the various plants we had seen and specimens were passed round for identification. A last scramble took the party to the bottom of the falls where the beautiful but rather muddy track followed the stream for some distance before turning uphill and bringing us out on to Mountain Road. After a very special afternoon tea at Miss Crookes' home, another happy trip ended.

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#### THE NEW BULLETIN IS OUT

Our long-awaited, latest Bulletin - containing illustrated keys to the local species of Astelia, Colloospermum, Coprosma, the Hymenophyllaceae and Olea - has at last been published. It has been well worth waiting for, the layout and printing are good, and the illustrations clear, useful and well-drawn. The old boggy nomenclature may be a slight problem for some. Copeland's arrangement of the filmy ferns has been followed - genera which appear in Allan's 1961 Flora as subgenera of Hymenophyllum and Trichomanes.

The section on Astelia and Colloospermum should be compared with Dr. Moore's revision in N.Z. Journ. Bot. 4: #2, June 1966, p. 201. ( see also Newsletter, July 1967, p. 5 ), which revision will, so I have been told, be used in the new Monocot. Flora.

When this Bulletin was first mooted, I put a note on Nestegis in Newsletter ( July 1964, p. 8 ) No definite decision appears to have been made as yet, and until it is made I propose to stick to Olea, which is at least familiar.

This booklet, an excellent aid to identification, is obtainable from Mr. Warren for 45 cents. I can recommend it. E.D.H.

Gleichenia circinnata<sup>5</sup>

Mossnatusua bog