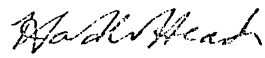
It seems likely that the specimen I mentioned was collected by Harry Head and not from "North Head" as I suggested. My attempt to reproduce the signature on the label is shown here.



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A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRYOLOGY OF THE AHURIRI RESERVE

Max Visch

Tucked away on the west side of the Summit Road just beyond Coopers Knob lies the Ahuriri Bush Scenic Reserve. Although relatively small this reserve is one of the best remnants of the type of forest that in former times covered much of the Port Hills.

The Ahuriri Bush consists mainly of second growth broadleaved species such as Peppertree, Whiteywood, Tree Fuchsia, Ribbonwood, Broadleaf Kaikomako, a variety of Coprosmas and Lianas and an undergrowth of ferns and tree seedlings. Emerging above the general bush canopy occur a scattering of old Matai and Kahikatea trees, survivors of a pre-European bush fire.

G.C. Kelly 1971 carried out a general survey of this reserve and his report which summarises the scientific, scenic and recreational values of this area he lists some 90 Flowering Plants, Conifers and Ferns. No mention was made of any bryophytes, presumably because of the time involved.

Yet in May this year when Alice Dumbleton, Jo Cartman and I paid a visit to the reserve primarily to study Coprosmas and other flowering plants, we were also much impressed by the variety and richness of mosses, hepatics and lichens that covered the bark and branches of nearly every tree, shrub and liana. Near the forest floor exposed tree roots, decaying wood of logs and fallen branches, moist boulders and slabs of rock provided a stable substrata for a variety of species. Except for Echinodium hispidum, Lembophyllum divulsum and Camptochaete spp. relatively few species were found to grow on earth on the forest floor.

Two further visits made by Alice and the author in June and early July greatly extended our knowledge of bryophytes of not only the Ahuriri Bush but also of the grassy, boulder strewn bank and cliff face along the Summit Road fronting the reserve. As the two areas have few species in common they have been listed separately.

Among the more interesting discoveries were the mosses Tetraphidopsis pusilla, Eriopus brownii in the bush reserve and Fissidens vittatus on the cliff face along the Summit Road.

Tetraphidopsis is a most remarkable little moss found on the bark of Peppertrees and Lianas. Although it is rarely found in capsule, it is readily recognised by the terminal and anillary globose heads of broodbodies used in vegetative reproduction. The non capsulate plants are so small that they are rarely and then only accidentally collected amongst other mosses and hepatics. The species is monotypic and confined to New Zealand.

Eriopus brownii is another endemic species. I have collected it in several areas on the Port Hills and but for the fact that it is generally found in capsule could easily be taken for a "leafy liverwort".

Fissidens vittatus has only been found on Banks Peninsula - nowhere else in Canterbury so Bryony Macmillan tells me. It is rather distinct from the other species of Fissidens in that it possesses incurved apices and a conspicuous intra-marginal border.

AHURIRI BUSH SPECIES LIST:

Preferred substrates

	Tree bark	Branches	Lianas	Exposed roots	Decaying wood	Rock	Earth
MOSSES:							
Calyptopogon mnioides	✓	✓	✓				
Camptochaete angustata	✓					✓	
Camptochaete arbuscula	✓				✓		✓
Camptochaete pulvinata	✓					✓	✓
Camptochaete ramulosa	✓			✓	✓		✓
Cryphaea tenella	✓	✓	✓				
Cyathophorum bulbosum						✓	✓
Dicranoloma menziesii	✓				✓		
Echinodium hispidum				✓		✓	✓
Eriopus brownii					✓	✓	✓
Eurhynchium asperipes				✓	✓	✓	✓
Homalia pulchella				✓		✓	
Hypnum cupressiforme var. filiforme	✓	✓			✓		
Lembophyllum divulsum	✓				✓		
Leptodon smithii	✓					✓	
Leptostomum inclinans	✓						
Lopidium concinnum	✓		✓				
Macromitrium asperulum	✓						
Macromitrium gracile var. rotusum	✓						

	Preferred substrates						
	Tree bark	Branches	Lianas	Exposed roots	Decaying wood	Rock	Earth
MOSSES (Continued):							
Neckera laevigata	✓	✓	✓				
Neckera pennata	✓	✓	✓				
Papillaria crocea	✓	✓	✓				
Papillaria flexicaulis	✓	✓	✓				
Racopilum strumiferum	✓					✓	✓
Rhynchostegium laxatum					✓	✓	✓
Rhynchostegium tenuifolium					✓	✓	✓
Sematophyllum amoenum	✓				✓		
Sematophyllum contiguum					✓	✓	
Tetraphidopsis pusilla	✓	✓	✓				
Tortula abruptinervis	✓						
Tortula papillosa	✓						
Tortula serrulata	✓					✓	✓
Trachyloma planifolium	✓						
Zygodon rufescens	✓						
Zygodon menziesii	✓						
HEPATICS							
Frullania deplanata	✓	✓	✓				
Frullania hampeana	✓	✓	✓				
Frullania patula	✓	✓	✓				
Frullania spinifera	✓	✓	✓				
Lepidolaena taylorii	✓	✓	✓				
Lophocolea muricata	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Metzgeria furcata	✓	✓					
Metzgeria decipiens	✓	✓					
Porella elegantula	✓	✓			✓	✓	

In addition a few species of Lophocolea and Lejeuniaceae were noted but not further identified. A striking feature was the apparent total absence of any member of the genus Plagiochila which is well represented in bush on the harbour side of the Port Hills.

ROADSIDE BANK AND CLIFF FACE SPECIES LIST

Preferred substrates

	Earth	Rock	Litter	
MOSSES:				
Acrocladium auriculatum	✓		✓	
Barbula pseudopilifera	✓	✓		
Bartramia papillata	✓			
Campylopus clavatus	✓			
Ceratodon purpureus	✓			
Fissidens vittatus		✓		
Grimmia pulvinata		✓		
Hedwigia ciliata		✓		
Hypnum cupressiforme	✓		✓	
Lembophyllum divulsum	✓	✓	✓	
Leptostomum inclinans		✓		usually on bark
Philonotis tenuis	✓	✓		
Racomitrium crispulum		✓		
Schistidium apocarpum		✓		
Thuidopsis furfurosa	✓	✓	✓	
Tortula princeps	✓			
Tortula serrulata	✓	✓		also on lower tree trunks
Triquetrella papillata	✓	✓	✓	
HEPATICS:				
Frullania squarrosula		✓		also on tree trunks
Targionia hypophylla	✓	✓		

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WOOD AVENS, GEUM URBANUM, AT DOG STREAM, HANMER SPRINGS

Bryony Macmillan

The banks of Dog Stream, on the Jollies Pass road from Hanmer Springs, have become a typical habitat for wood avens (Geum urbanum L.). Under a deciduous canopy of alder, birch and sycamore in damp soil grow many plants up to 2 feet tall. Their compound rosette leaves are a handsome rich green and the inflorescences spread up the stem bear small