

This species, in its general appearance, shows an evident relationship to *Celmisia traversii*, but the cordate leaves which present the first departure from the normal leaf-form of *Celmisia*, is thought sufficient to constitute a new species.

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DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XVIII.

Plant two-thirds natural size ; head past flowering.

1. Female floret of ray.
  2. Hermaphrodite floret of disk, with achene and pappus,
  3. Pappus hair more magnified,
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ART. LXIV.—*Notice of a new Species of Pomaderris (P. tainui.)*

By Dr. HECTOR.

[Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, 11th January, 1879.]

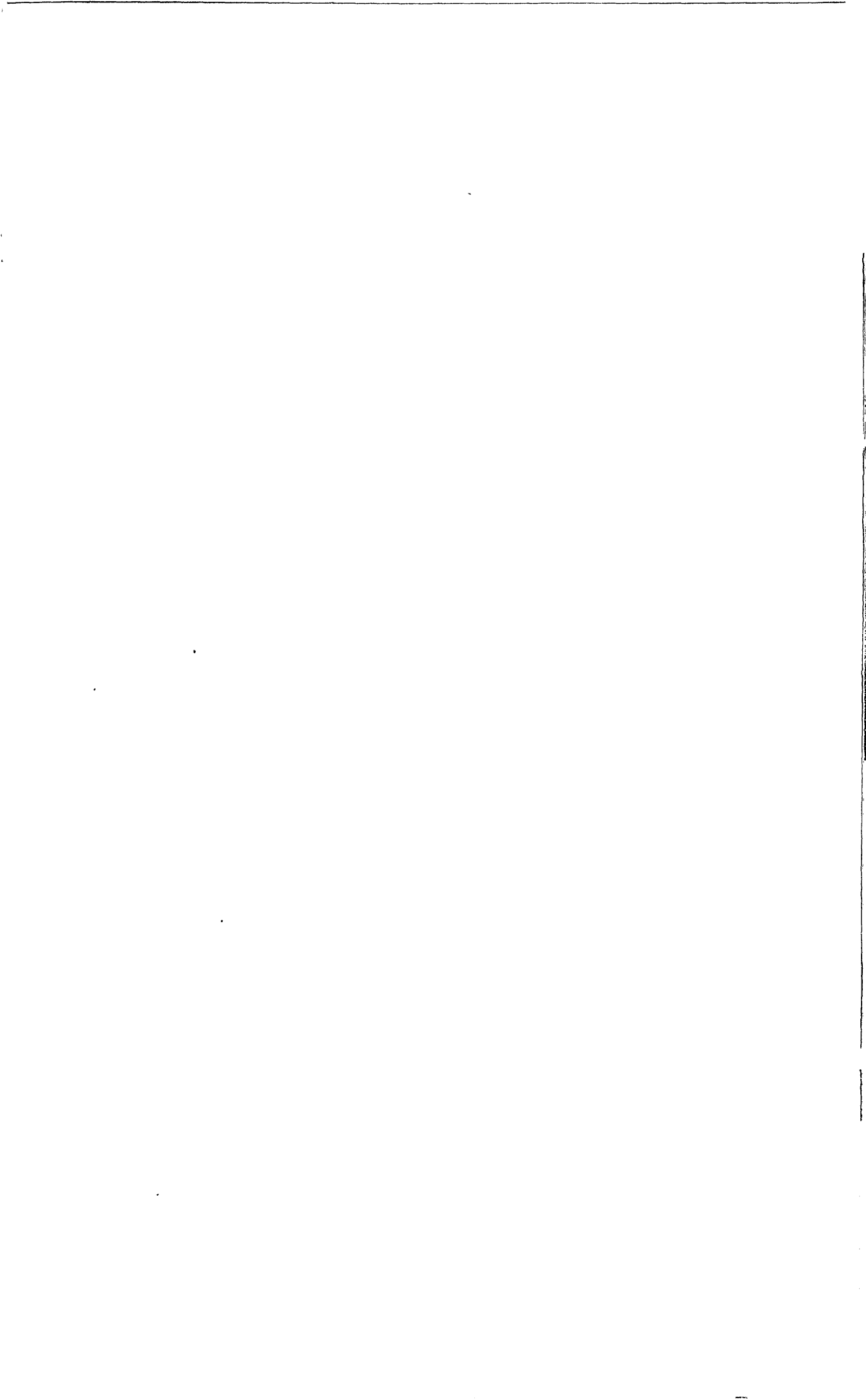
THE tree which I have to introduce to the Society was discovered during my recent visit to the Mokau district, under circumstances of some interest beyond the mere botanical importance of a new addition to the flora of the country. It is a very local plant, being confined to about an acre of ground on a spur of the low sandy hills that extend along the coast, between the Mokau and the Mohakatina rivers.

The peculiar habit of the tree first attracted my attention, having a resemblance to a clump of apple trees, so that at first glance I thought it to be an old orchard or cultivation. I afterwards was much interested in hearing from the natives that a peculiar tree was growing on the spot where their ancestors first camped when they abandoned the *Tainui* canoe, in which they came from Hawaiki, and that this tree had sprung from the rollers or skids and the green boughs that were brought as flooring to the great canoe. On my doubting this, they offered to take me to the place, and if I could not recognise the tree as being found elsewhere in New Zealand, they would consider it as proof that the tradition was correct.

To my surprise they took me to the clump of trees I had previously observed, and as it is certainly quite distinct from any plant hitherto described from New Zealand, the tradition receives a certain amount of confirmation ; and I need hardly point out that if it were true, and we could hereafter determine the original habitat of this tree, it might give us a clue to the whereabouts of the mythical Hawaiki, or the place whence the Māori originally migrated to New Zealand,



CELMISIA CORDATIFOLIA, *72. 8.*



The following description of this plant indicates it to be closely allied to *Pomaderris apetala*, Labill., which is a native of Australia and Tasmania; but as it differs in its growing to a much larger size—that species being a mere shrub like the kumera-hau (*P. elliptica*) of New Zealand, whereas the tree now described grows to a height of 20 feet, with large stems 5 or 6 inches in diameter—I have thought it better to distinguish it by a specific name, and have adopted that by which it is known to the Maoris.

*Pomaderris tainui*, n.s.

A small shrubby tree, 20 feet high, with numerous irregular branches; smooth brownish-grey bark; young branches and under side of leaves covered with white stellate tomentum; leaves 2 to 3 inches long, elliptic-oblong, obtuse at both ends, irregularly crenulate, glabrous and dark green on the upper surface, with distant stellate bases on young leaves, principal veins very prominent, buff-coloured. Flowers small in open thyrsoid panicles, leafy at the base, buds nearly globular; *calyx* about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lines long with stellate leaves, the tube being very short; *petals* 0; *anthers* tipped by a small gland; *styles* divided to the middle with club-shaped, almost capitate stigmas; *capsule* not seen.

*Habitat*: Sea Coast, south of Mokau River. In flower 5th Dec., 1878.

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ART. LXV.—A Description of two New Zealand Ferns, believed to be new to Science. By W. COLENSO.

[Read before the Hawke Bay Philosophical Institute, 14th October, 1878.]

I. CYATHEA.

*Cyathea polyneuron*, sp. nov.

*Trunk* stout, 12–15 feet high (garden plant 12 years old, 6 feet high, 3 feet in circumference under bases of fronds, and 2–6 at one foot above ground), densely covered with long black hairs, and marked with scars of fallen fronds.

*Fronds* (garden plant), 10–12, ample, grass-green colour above, paler below, gracefully drooping, 10–12 feet long, 4 feet 6 inches broad (in middle), oblong-lanceolate, membranaceous when first expanded, afterwards sub-coriaceous, tripinnate, glabrous above, floccosely hairy and woolly on veins and veinlets below.

*Stipes* stout, 12–15 inches long, 8–9 inches in girth at base, muricated, of a dark mahogany colour below and light yellow-green above, regularly marked with a light-coloured straight yet broken line running on both sides