

ART. XV.—Notes on a Botanical Visit to Coll or Bench Island (Stewart Island).

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ON the 10th April, 1917, in company with Mr. G. Biggar, of Croydon, I had the opportunity, by courtesy of Mr. Henry Hansen, of Half-moon Bay, of spending a few hours on the above island—one of those off the north-east coast of Stewart Island, distant about six miles from the mainland, at Half-moon Bay. The whole surface of the island is clad with a close forest and scrub association, which in parts is difficult to get through, and consequently my list can hardly be considered exhaustive, but it gives a good idea of the plant-covering. The general characteristics of the coastal scrub of all these outlying islands are very similar. This island, however, contains a forest association something like Pukeokaoka,* differing considerably from both Herekopere† and Bunkers,‡ which are its nearest neighbours. The top of the island is somewhat broken by a series of undulations, and the chief features of the vegetation are the close coastal scrub, the great quantities of *Stilbocarpa Lyallii*, and the large groves of *Dicksonia squarrosa*. The ferns of the forest-floor are of immense size, the fronds of *Asplenium bulbiferum* and *A. falcatum* attaining a height of 1.5 metres. Petrels and other burrowing-birds do not seem very plentiful except towards the southern end of the island, but penguins (*Megadyptes antipodium*) were common at the time of our visit, and appeared to be moulting. The influence of these birds on the vegetation must be considerable, both on account of their traffic and by the enrichment of the ground by their droppings.

I do not intend further describing the plant-associations in detail, but append a list of species noted. From this it will be seen that these number fifty-four, belonging to thirty-seven genera and twenty-four families. For the first time, I think, *Senecio Stewartiae* is definitely reported from this island. It is plentiful at the south end, but was not seen elsewhere.

LIST OF PLANTS NOTED.

PTERIDOPHYTA.

HYMENOPHYLLACEAE.

- Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*
(Forst. f.) Sw.
— *dilatatum* (Forst. f.) Sw.
— *demissum* (Forst. f.) Sw.
— *tunbridgense* (L.) Sm.

CYATHEACEAE.

- Dicksonia squarrosa* (Forst. f.) Sw.

POLYPODIACEAE.

- Polystichum vestitum* (Forst.) Presl.
— *hispidum* (Sw.) Sm.

* See D. L. POPPELWELL, Notes on the Plant-covering of Pukeokaoka, Stewart Island, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, vol. 48, p. 244, 1916.

† See D. L. POPPELWELL, Notes of a Botanical Visit to Herekopere Island, Stewart Island, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, vol. 47, p. 142, 1915.

‡ See article in this volume, p. 154

PTERIDOPHYTA—*continued.*

POLYPODIACEAE—*continued.*

- Asplenium obtusatum* Forst. f.
 — *scleroprium* Homb. & Jacq.
 — *lucidum* Forst. f.
 — *bulbiferum* Forst. f.
 — *flaccidum* Forst. f.
 — *falcatum* Lam.
Blechnum durum (Moore) C. Chr.
 — *penna marina* (Poir.) Kuhn.
Histiopteris incisa (Thbg.) J. Sm.

POLYPODIACEAE—*continued.*

- Pteridium esculentum* (Forst. f.) Cock-
 ayne.
Polypodium Billardieri (Willd.) C.
 Chr.
 — *grammitidis* R. Br.
 — *diversifolium* Willd.

LYCOPODIACEAE.

- Tmesipteris tannensis* Bernh.

SPERMOPHYTA

TAXACEAE.

- Podocarpus ferrugineus* Don

GRAMINEAE.

- Hierochloe redolens* (Forst. f.) R. Br.
Poa Astoni Petrie.

CYPERACEAE.

- Scirpus aucklandicus* (Hook. f.) Boeck.
 — *nodosus* (R. Br.) Rottb.
Carex trifida Cav.
 — *lucida* Boott.

LILIACEAE.

- Rhipogonum scandens* Forst.

ORCHIDACEAE.

- Earina mucronata* Lindl

POLYGONIACEAE.

- Muehlenbeckia australis* (Forst. f.)
 Meissn.

AIZOACEAE.

- Tetragonia trigyna* Banks & Sol.

CRASSULACEAE.

- Crassula moschata* Forst. f.

PITTIOSPORACEAE.

- Pittosporum Colensoi* Hook. f. var.

CUNONIACEAE.

- Weinmannia racemosa* L. f.

ROSACEAE.

- Rubus australis* Forst. f.

VIOLACEAE.

- Melicytus lanceolatus* Hook. f.

MYRTACEAE.

- Metrosideros lucida* (Forst. f.) A. Rich.

ARALIACEAE.

- Stilbocarpa Lyallii* J. B. Armstrong.
Nothopanax Edgerleyi (Hook. f.)
 Seem
Pseudopanax crassifolium (Sol.) C.
 Koch var. *unifoliatum* T. Kirk.

UMBELLIFERAE.

- Hydrocotyle novae-zealandiae* DC.
Apium prostratum Labill

CORNACEAE.

- Grisehnia littoralis* Raoul.

MYRSINACEAE

- Rapanea Urvellei* (A. DC.) Mez.

SCROPHULARINACEAE.

- Veronica elliptica* Forst f.

RUBIACEAE.

- Coprosma rotundifolia* A. Cunn.
 — *areolata* Cheesem
 — *foetidissima* Forst
Nertera dichondraefolia (A. Cunn.)
 Hook f.

COMPOSITAE.

- Olearia angustifolia* Hook. f.
Erechtites scaberula Hook. f.
Senecio Stewartiae J. B. Armstrong.
 — *rotundifolius* Hook f.