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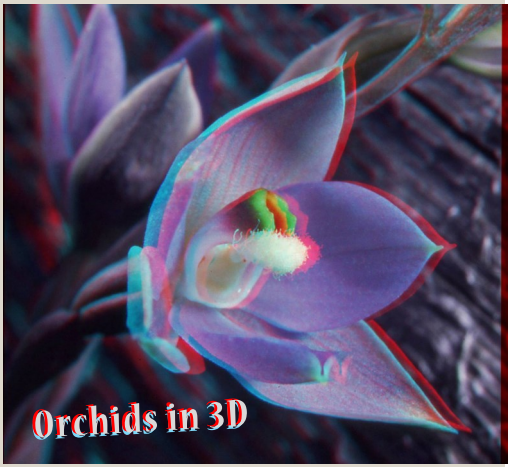

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From the Chair: Gael Donaghy

Wonderings from Abroad

I am sitting in a small town hotel by the beach in southwest Turkey, overlooking the Aegean Sea, musing over what drives the single-head phenomena in our two biggest genera, *Corybas* and *Pterostylis*. What follows may be a bit muddled as it is very hot here, the collared doves are making a real racket, and I am still recovering from the long flights to get here. What I am hoping is that you will have something to argue with, or add to, or even come up with some other possible explanations!

The observation that sparked my thinking is that all European orchids have multiple flowers on one stem. I checked this with the botanists we are travelling with, and the only orchid that they could come up with that had a single flower was the circumpolar Calypso orchid, *Calypso bulbosa*.

So what are the possible explanations for so many single flowered species in these genera?

My first try is that it is more economical to put a lot of effort into doing it once and doing it right! Energy-wise, one flower is economical, and when you are not very big (*Corybas)* you haven't got a large photosynthetic area, or a large tuber, to have energy to spare. Sometimes sports of *Corybas oblongus* can have two flowers, but it seems to arise independently, and not be handed on to further generations.

L.K. McQueen, Wikipedia

My second guess is that these orchids live in damp habitats, and are pollinated by fungus gnats who live in such places. These gnats are too small to go between flowers carrying a large pollen load. With just one flower it means the gnat has to travel to a different plant to get more of what it is looking for, so ensuring cross-pollination.

My third idea was that it might be something about shorter growing seasons in colder places, but *Corybas* are found up through the tropics, so this doesn't seem to hold water.

There are so many exceptions to these arguments (e.g. *Acianthus sinclairii* is tiny but has several flowers), that I would love to see your thoughts on our Facebook page. See page 29 for instructions on how to join. Our Facebook coordinator is Max and he will admit you – it may take a day or so, so keep checking.

We will be home on 31st May, and I will prepare more details on the AGM and tag-along for the August journal. In the meantime I hope you can get out and start seeing the new seasons orchids – *A. sinclairii* was in late bud in the Kaimai Ranges last week!

Alpine and subantarctic *Corybas*

Gael Donaghy & Graeme Jane

For many years we have been surprised by the species of *Corybas* that appear at or above the tree line. Early records are only of *C. macranthus*, especially those by Tony Druce in his species lists from the 1940's to 1980's. We readily accepted several *Pterostylis* species as being "normal" above the forest and this discouraged us from seeking out the wet place *Corybas*. Too often we passed through the scrub heading for the tops with the spectacular and varied daisies and buttercups or seeking interesting small herbs, but we never explored the wet areas in the scrub.

We decided to change this in 2000. Our first surprise came with a deliberate search in scrub on Dumblane (Photo 1) in Marlborough in December 2003. It turned up a very red *Corybas* (Photo 2) that was certainly not *C. macranthus* (Journal 90: 31) and did not fit with any species we had seen previously. We revisited in 2011 and 2016. Matt Ward (Journal 160:14) has suggested it is like *C. sulcatus*, but we think that is trying to fit it into a known box.

On another much promised trip in January 2005 to the Hump in Southland we spied a *Corybas* in an alpine tarn outlet with water flowing over it (it had been raining) but no sign of flowers. We thought it was the same as the one on Dumblane, but on 28 December 2014, a trip timed to find it in flower revealed yet another taxon (Photo 3).

Photo 1.

Photo 2.

Photo 3.

Photo 4.

Photo 5.

In 2009 we were on the Roaring Meg Pack Track in Central Otago and just turning back when Gael decided to explore a mossy seepage in tussock (Photo 4). The *Corybas* had finished flowering but we took photos and thought it was the same as on Dumblane. In 2012 we got back to the site a bit earlier in the season and found it in flower. This one appeared to be *C. orbiculatus* (Photo 5). Subsequently *C. dienemus* and *C. sulcatus* have been recorded from around Wellington and Nelson. This caused reconsideration of this attribution to *C. orbiculatus*. Finding it in the Arrow River, and a similar taxon in the Catlins in a dune slack (Journal 164:5), re-assured us of that determination.

So what of Tony Druce's *C. macranthus*? He often visited the alpine areas of the South Island in summer when only leaves would have been apparent. Also at the time *C. macranthus* was included in what we now know as *C. hatchii*, first known from the Waiouru area and *C. orbicularis* was hidden in *C. rotundifolius* (Journal 167:16). Bruce Irwin was busy sorting out this mess in Taranaki (Journal 32:2) and around Ruapehu, tag naming several taxa including what are now *C. hatchii, C. dienemus* and *C. orbiculatus*.

How many more are there? In the South Island we have seen one in the Hooker Valley on a vegetation monitoring plot at 1300 m (Photo 6) - once more non flowering (Photo 7). Which is this, or is it something new? Another mystery lies on Danseys Pass, seen only in seed. We haven't yet managed to get the timing of a trip right to identify it.

Photo 6.

Photo 7.

The subantarctic islands are a similar habitat but nearer sea level. Ian St George (Journal 60:2) reviewed *Corybas* recorded from the subantarctic islands and little seems to have been reported since. More recently we went to the subantarctic islands in 2020. There we managed to photograph *C. dienemus* (Photo 8), and something like *C. sulcatus* (photo 9). There were two other taxa from Auckland Island (Journal 161:7). One possibly the same as that on the Hump (Photo 10) and something quite different (Photo 11) and one on Mt Honey, Campbell Island (Photo 12). Our photos are not good as it was often raining and the flowering had largely finished so the plants recorded were not at their best.

Areas close to our cities have been well explored for orchids but further afield there are many unexplored areas. Alpine areas especially are poorly explored, particularly on the West Coast where there are few places for access to the mountains. These are often visited in January—February when many orchids have finished flowering and so many of the *Pterostylis* and *Corybas* species are poorly recorded. We have noted *Pterostylis* (*montana*?) in the tussock grassland at 1300 m and several different *Corybas* taxa.

So the challenge remains to our younger, fitter members to spend more time in the alpine scrubland gullies earlier in the season to try to sort out these mysteries and perhaps extend the records of the ones we have noted.


Photo 8.


Photo 9.


Photo 10.


Photo 11.

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Donaghy G & Irwin B 2004: notes, letters, news, views, comments. *NZNOG Journal* 90: p31

Ward M 2021: A record of *Corybas* aff. *sulcatus*. *NZNOG Journal* 160:14

Donaghy G, & Jane G 2022: The Deep South-Auckland & Campbell Is orchids. *NZNOG Journal* 161:7

Donaghy G, & Jane G 2022: Reconsideration of *Corybas orbiculatus* from False Islet, Cannibal Bay. *NZNOG Journal* 164:5

Irwin B 1989: The great Taranaki Corybas crawl. *NZNOG Journal* 32:2

Jane G 2022: Making sense of name changes – the red peg problem. *NZNOG Journal* 167:16

St George I 1996. *Corybas* on the southern islands. NZNOG Journal 60:2

Photo 12.

Photo 13.

Appendix - What makes them different/ distinct

Corybas "tussock" Dumblane modified shrubland gully alt c. 1000m (-42.46870246387843, 172.7845193059094) Sterile leaves quite oval with a mucro, fertile leaves trapezoid; flowers originating well below the leaf, flower above; Dorsal sepal dark maroon, ridged, broad and rounded at the tip, slightly forward of the labellum; lateral petals quite short; labellum face centre flat, almost white, striped, margin lower margin serrate.

Corybas orbiculatus Roaring Meg. Mossy seepage in modified tussock grassland Alt c. 900 m (-44.94993237710423, 169.04873625573893). Sterile leaf quite round, strongly cupped in this exposed site, fertile leaf oblong; flower originating often well below the leaf but flower usually just above the leaf, ovary scarcely visible, petals short, erect, scarcely above the dorsal sepal; labellum face, narrow, elongate pointed evenly dark maroon.

Corybas "Hump" alt 1000 m (-46.15682929190015, 167.3072291904844) tarn side in *Olearia colenso*i scrub. Leaf with distinctive mucro, rather like a C. trilobus (Photo 13) flower originating well below the leaf with a strongly stripey, very elongate labellum, margins coarsely serrate.

Corybas sp. Hooker Valley alt c. 1300 m (-43.60129072237645, 170.22761241447952) modified alpine grassland in sample plot (Photo 6). No flower seen. Leaf with mucro tip like *C. trilobus* (Photo 7).

Epigwaitt Hut Grafton wreck site Auckland Is near sea level(-50.74942481155001, 166.01363796909828).

Corybas1 close to former hut site in modified rātā forest dominated by *Dracophyllum* with *C. acuminatus* and *Acianthus* (Photo 14). Like the Hump *Corybas* but leaf rather thin, triangular, like Lake Hinemoa very near shore, (flower rather old): prominent stripes on labellum, leaf triangular with large sinus

(-50.630400556125394, 166.16833665513695)

Corybas 2 close to shore but over creek in *Dracophyllum* scrub. Leaf quite round, hint of notch; flower from well below leaf but mostly above it, labellum face quite flat, margins quite smooth, not humped in the middle; dorsal sepal quite broad, notched at the tip about equal labellum.

Corybas diememus - lonely pine, Camp Cove, Campbell Is (-52.554762568391546, 169.13441575280856) on a bank on the shore (Photo 15). Leaf quite oblong-trapezoid, tapered; flower originating well below the leaf but ovary scarcely visible; like *C. orbiculatus* in shape, but mostly pale greenish; tepals long, lateral petals spreading; dorsal sepal quite narrow labellum face with distinctive silvery loop around central and marginal red areas.

Corybas sp., Mt Honey, (Photo 16) Campbell Is (-52.55955394931294, 169.16153602452948) and Beeman track (-52.54889270287747, 169.15178333576748) very abundant; leaves abundant but few flowers seen. Leaf quite round with a hint of mucro; dorsal sepal quite broad slightly longer than labellum, not notched; labellum face quite prominently humped, yellow in the middle margins quite ragged.

More photos are available on request - for the intrepid explorers.

Photo 14.

Photo 15.

Photo 16.

Acianthus sinclairii

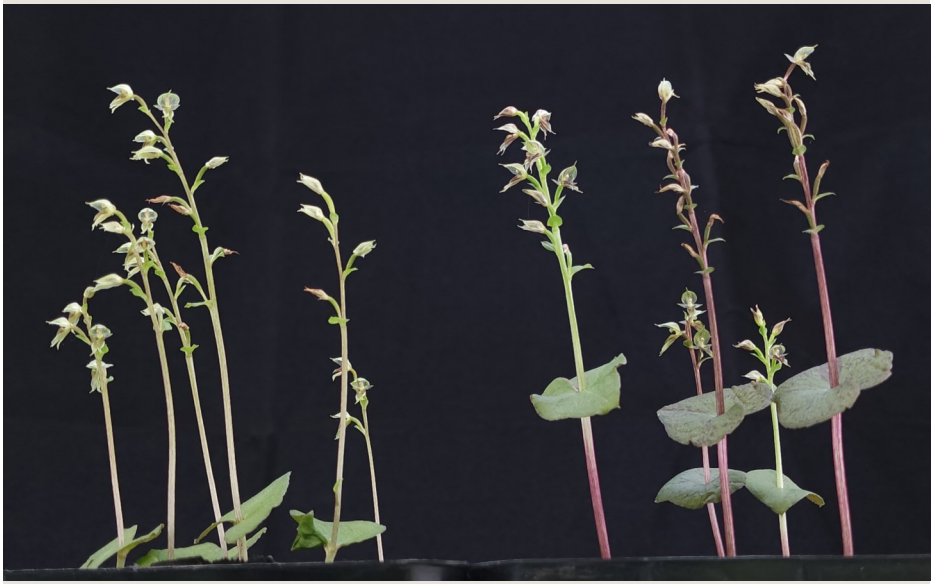
Local variation or vagrant?

John Rugis

Last year, as a member of the Auckland Botanical Society, I brought in two pots of cultivated plants to show at a society meeting. The pots each contained a small group of what I assumed to be *Acianthus sinclairii*, originally sourced from two different bush locations near where I live: Muriwai (west coast) and Waimauku (approximately 6km inland).

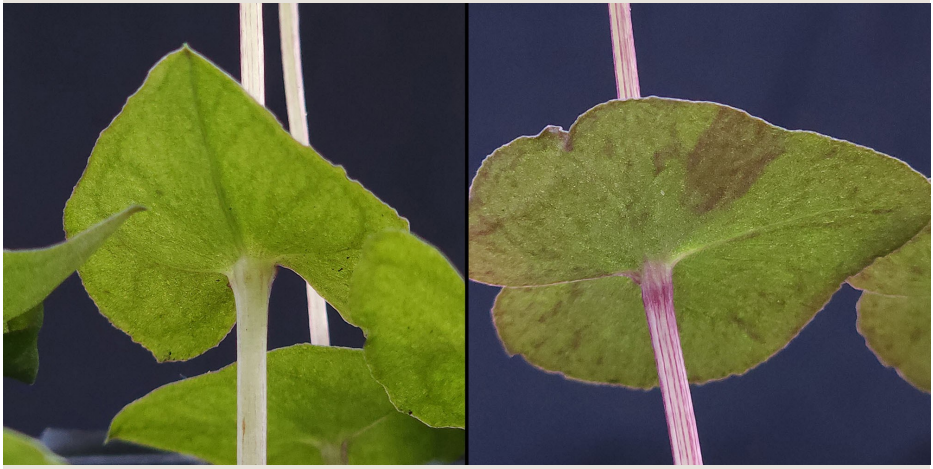
The plant groups exhibit distinct differences, including colouring, with the Muriwai group being much more green overall than the more maroon-red-purple Waimauku group. This is the second flowering season for these plants, grown under identical conditions in an outdoor shade-house, and the differences have not changed, indicating that these differences are not due to short-term environmental factors.

Also visible in the image below, each Muriwai group leaf is positioned lower on the stem. Note that, in the shade-house, the Muriwai group flowered approximately two weeks later than the Waimauku group and the flowers were not as long lived.



Acianthus sinclairii—Muriwai left, Waimauku right

Acianthus sinclairii—leaf top and stem: Muriwai left, Waimauku right



Acianthus sinclairii—leaf underside and stem: Muriwai left, Waimauku right

Acianthus sinclairii—top view of flower: Muriwai left, Waimauku right

The dorsal sepal is more rounded and somewhat larger in the Muriwai group. The dorsal sepal in the Muriwai group almost entirely lacks the maroon-red-purple lengthwise stripes seen in the Waimauku group.

Acianthus sinclairii—flower: Muriwai left, Waimauku right

The maroon-red-purple colouring of the labellum is much more extensive in the Waimauku group. The narrow tips of the lateral sepals are generally longer and straighter in the Waimauku group.

Discussion

Acianthus sinclairii is endemic to New Zealand and is the only currently recognized *Acianthus* species here. The species description given by the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network[(1)] includes multiple instances of non-specific phrases such as "usually greenish, often purpled", so could conceivably be read as covering the variation described here. However, when I did a visual scan of the *A. sinclairii* images on iNaturalist[(2)], I didn't spot anything that looked like the Muriwai variant.

So, could the Muriwai (coastal) variant be something new, at least to New Zealand?

In discussion with Peter de Lange, who happened to be the featured speaker at the same botanical society meeting, he speculated that the *Acianthus* population in New Zealand could be subject to periodic ongoing natural ingress from the east coast of Australia. Peter pointed to *A. fornicatus* as a possible culprit.

I subsequently did some checking, learning that there are eleven *Acianthus* species present in Australia[(3)],and sure enough, the Muriwai group of plants bears some visual resemblance to a reference I found on *A. fornicatus*[(4)]. Further investigation uncovered a detailed study of *Acianthus*[(5)] that shows the close relationship between *A. sinclairii* and *A. fornicatus*.

References

1)https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acianthus-sinclairii/

2)https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/399314-Acianthus-sinclairii

3)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acianthus

4)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acianthus_fornicatus

5)http://www.jstor.org/stable/23190053

Editor's Note:

Acianthus fornicatus

◄

Ranger Jenny / July 2023 | South Turramurra, NSW, AU | iNaturalist

►

Rolf Lawrenz / April 2021 / Great Lakes, NSW, AU / iNaturalist

Prasophyllum Nova species

Gordon Sylvester

This species has been called by a variety of names over the years, principally as *Prasophyllum colensoi*, but its floristic characteristics set it apart from *P. colensoi*.

Firstly its colour. Scanlen in CFG states "usually yellow-green flowers but often with reddish tinges" and later he goes onto say a claret peduncle.

In his notes he stated that *Prasophyllum* "A" was previously called so by orchidologists uneasy about its greater size and wider spaced flowers. Bruce Irwin took the initiative in Journal 74, (March 2000) and tag-named it in Journal 79:8,9 because of its above detailed distinctions.

My first exposure to the flower was at Lake Lyndon on Christmas 2003-4 where it was a solitary plant in the alpine herb fields on the east side of the lake.

The latest sighting was in a roadside drainage ditch close to Taylorville while waiting for a truck accident to be cleared on 17 December 2013. 4 plants were sighted in the bottom of the ditch about 400 mm below the road surface. The area was about 400 x 300 mm wide, there was water flowing, and the plants were in soft mud just above the water. The altitude was 25 m above sea level and about 6 km from the coast.

The height of these plants was between 140 mm and 260 mm, and all were either in flower or bud. Returning on 20 December I relocated the small colony and took photographs. When I looked at the shots a little later a small spider was noted in close proximity to a flower. There was also a small cobweb spread to catch small flying insects but these insects were not evident.

Other photographs do not show the prominent callus on the labellum. The colour is the same as the late flowering *Corunastylis nuda,* a deep claret colour. The colour has been consistent in the 2 or so sightings I have made over the last 10 years.

Pterostylis cernua
The quick ID.

Mark Moorhouse

One noticeable thing that several members of the latest Tagalong group were having difficulty with was making positive identifications in the flesh of *Pterostylis cernua* which is quite widespread on the West Coast of the South Island. To some, it was something new, myself included, and only a few members were well versed in its details. Much referring to the Field guides occurred but helped little. That source still left us with questions and doubts. It wasn't until we got home and started closely examining our photos, that we discovered there is a quick and patently obvious way of making positive identifications in the field.

Pic 1. *Pterostylis cernua, Camp track, Deniston.*

The problem lies with it's close similarity to *P. graminea*, at least, as we know it in the top of the South Island, and to the previously tagged *P*. 'peninsula' from Nelson Lakes National Park. to which there have been numerous suggestions of synonymy in past Journals. The field guide also suggests an affiliation to *P. montana,* though I've not seen that personally.

P. cernua, on casual inspection, has the general appearance of the local *P. graminea* while that plant is still in the process of opening, with the tips of its synsepalum still pointing forward in the same direction as the tip of the dorsal sepal. One thing struck home. It seemed odd that every patch of "*P. graminea*" we located, all but one, that is, had every flower half open [***Pic 1].*** Only that odd colony out, had erect tepals, seemed to be taller and had longer grassier leaves. All very confusing. Yes, all had dark labellums, most had that 'dirty' darkish look to the otherwise red tip of the dorsal and all had narrow leaves of medium length.

What we had failed to observe on site is, that the synsepalum tips in *P. cernua* most frequently REMAIN arched forward, rarely becoming erect even at maturity, the lower photo in the Field Guide being rather less than typical in that aspect was not helpful. As evidenced by our photos from numerous sites, [***Pic 2***] whole colonies, when viewed from di-

Pic 2. *Pterostylis cernua, Hokitika Gorge (left) and Arnold Dam Walkway (right)*

rectly above, looked like colonies of miniature charging bulls, sweepingly curved horns held forward [***Pic 3***]. In comparison, *P. graminea* [***Pic 4***] opens fully to display erect or even rear facing deflexed tepals, while *P. montana* holds them erect, or, if unfurled, curled forwards like ram's horns.

Two Conclusions:

1. Based on the above observations, there is some validity in lumping *P.* 'peninsula' with *P. cernua,* if you allow a small amount of natural variation [***Pic 5***]. Both have their sepal tips pointing forward. Both can be small to tiny, both can flower from plants no higher than a 10c piece, both have dark labellums and narrow leaves.

2. So, if you are searching for *P. cernua* on the West Coast: look for small plants with a dark labellum and the 'charging bull' syndrome, and you are almost certainly looking at a specimen.

Sites we saw it at on the 2023 tagalong, included Kelly's Creek, Hokitika Gorge, Brunner Mine site [***Pic 6***], Arnold Dam

Pic 3. *Pterostylis cernua, Camp Track, Deniston*

Pic 4. *Pterostylis graminea, Tadmor*

Pic 5. *Pterostylis 'peninsula' AKA Pterostylis cernua, St Arnaud*

track, Camp track at Denniston. And there are others. We did visit the Type Locality site but due to heavy rain failed to spend enough time to find specimens. The ditches where it was found there have been modified, making it a bit harder to locate.

Pic 6. *Pterostylis cernua, Brunner Mine site*

The inbox

Colour variation in Thelymitra cyanea on the West Coast

Rachel Taylor

December 2023 | Four Mile track, Charleston

The inbox

Colour variation in Thelymitra cyanea on the West Coast

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Colour variation in Thelymitra cyanea on the West Coast

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A trip to the Allan Herbarium

Max Hill

We were excited that Joe Dillon presented his research on the impact of climate change on the phenology of our native New Zealand Orchids to the Canterbury Botanical Society on 25 March. Gordon Sylvester and myself went along to the meeting. We were hoping to meet Joe in person and have a chat, but it turned out he was presenting remotely over the internet. The presentation made it absolutely clear how important good record keeping and quality data is for robust research. While Joe was not physically present at the time of his talk, he mentioned that he was visiting the Allan Herbarium at Lincoln University the following week.

Gordon took the initiative to contact Joe and set up a meeting for the 3 April at the Herbarium. We met with Ines Schonberger, the herbarium manager for 20 years, Joe Dillon, and Murray Dawson, who is continuing his work on the New Zealand native orchid key. Ines was herself excited to meet Gordon, who had previously donated a collection of Himalayan specimens to the Herbarium. That plant collection was (probably) by the late Joe Short, with specimens layered between the pages of Indian newspapers. Gordon had acquired it, mounted it, annotated it, sorted it and boxed it up.

Ines showed us round the 800,000 items in storage. It included a specimen of Earina mucronata collected on Captain James Cook's visit in 1769 by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, his botanists on the expedition. There were a number of items from the voyage which the Herbarium has on loan from the British Museum.

Three large temperature and humidity controlled rooms house the specimen collections in steel cabinets,

with a complete sprinkler system in case of fire. Ines explained it was easier to re-cover wet specimens and dry them out rather than have them burnt and lost for ever.

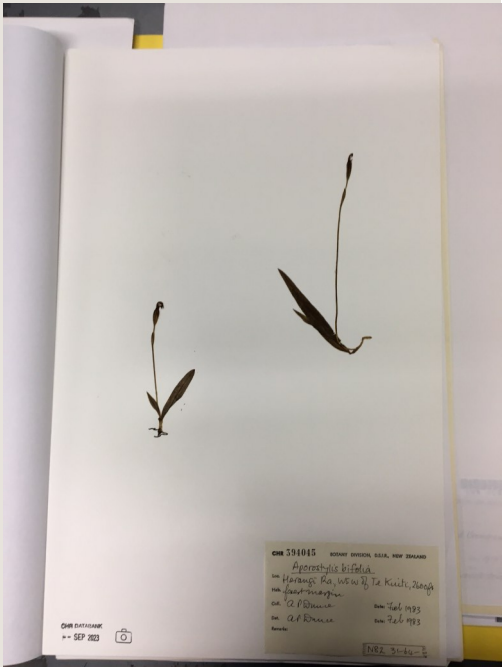
The indexing and organization of the collection is convenient, with Orchidaceae in their own section in several of the cabinets, and organized alphabetically. We found Joe with his head in files of orchids in the depths of the Herbarium, collating the data into his spreadsheets. Some of the naming of the taxon has stuck with the older names (such as *Anzybas* for the re-grouped *Corybas*) which requires some knowledge of the history of taxonomical progressions and synonyms.

In addition to the dried specimens, there are also those preserved in flammable spirit. The importance of three dimensional specimens is interesting – colours washed out but the structures clearly visible. Many were the late Brian Molloy's orchid specimens.

Gordon had carefully mounted and annotated his orchid collection of 50 years in two boxes and donated these to the Herbarium. Ines was understandably excited and grateful for this addition.

She also showed us some of the Brian Molloy files of his dried specimens. They are in the process of adding these to the collection and they are currently still mounted on postcards in several boxes, as Brian had prepared them, with annotations of date and collection location. What a goldmine this is.

Finally, we departed some five hours later, Ines commented they appreciated visitors to view items.



The Herbarium is staffed by volunteers who look after various aspects of sorting the collections as they come in. I was impressed by the rigorous processing of new material received into the collection. The data sets and information that the herbariums now provide online are so essential to the next generation of researchers, and to progress the knowledge of our unique flora.

The Type Locality

Pterostylis oliveri at Kelly's Creek, Otira

Ian St George

Donald Petrie 1846–1925 discovered a new *Pterostylis* on the banks of Kelly's Creek, Otira, in early January 1893. The Type is in Herb. Petrie at Te Papa.

He described it formally the next year in *Trans. NZ Inst.* 1894. 26: 270.

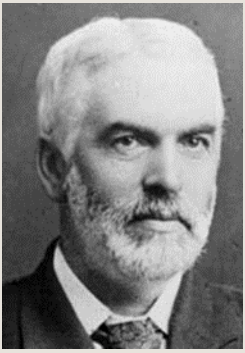
7. Pterostylis oliveri, sp. nov.

A rather stout leafy species 6in. to 12in. high. Leaves reticulately veined, bright glossy-green, amplexicaul or shortly sheathing; radical several, narrow-ovate, acute, narrowed into a rather broad petiole, 2½in. to 3½in. long, ¾in. to ⅞in. wide; cauline several, amplexicaul, sessile, almost acuminate, the upper gradually diminishing in size.

Flowers usually solitary and terminal, a second flower occurring but rarely in the axil of the uppermost cauline leaf, about 2in. long, curved forward and downward in front almost to the level of the ovary. Upper sepal boat-shaped, broad, tapering gradually to an acute point, the free lobes of the lower sepals broadly obcuneate and produced into very slender erect filaments 1¼in. in length. Petals falcate, 1¼in. long, ¼in. broad, acuminate. Claw broadly linear, brown, of nearly uniform width to the base; appendage much narrower than the claw, terminating in numerous very narrow filaments. Column ⅜in. long.

Hab. Open scrub and low bush on the banks of Kelly's Creek, Otira River (1,100ft.). In flower in the early part of January.

I have much pleasure in dedicating this plant to Professor D. Oliver, F.R.S., of Kew, in acknowledgment of valued assistance in my botanical studies.



Donald Petrie

You can read about Petrie in the *Dictionary of NZ Biography,* here: https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2p14/petrie-donald. He was a Scots schoolteacher, educated in the classics, migrated to Melbourne, then was appointed Inspector of Schools in Otago in 1873. Petrie had long been interested in botany and in February 1874 he became a member of the Otago Institute, where fellow members GM Thomson and AC Purdie encouraged his interest and probably gave him the scientific training he lacked. In October 1878 he presented his first paper to the Otago Institute; he would go on to write over 60 papers.

[It has been reported that caricaturist Frederick Richards Rayner sketched Donald Petrie for his booklet of images of prominent Dunedin people in 1893, Indeed he did, but that Donald Petrie was a well known street newspaper salesman, not the Inspector of Schools (St George IM 2019. *The Sketcher: Frederick Richards Rayner*)].

Petrie collected plants during his school tours throughout Otago and made collecting trips elsewhere—including that with Leonard Cockayne to Westland and Canterbury in the summer of 1893. Cockayne spoke of his thoroughness as a collector: "he looked neither to right nor left, but steadily gazed at the carpet of plants hour by hour, pausing only to collect those which were new to him or which he

wished to examine".

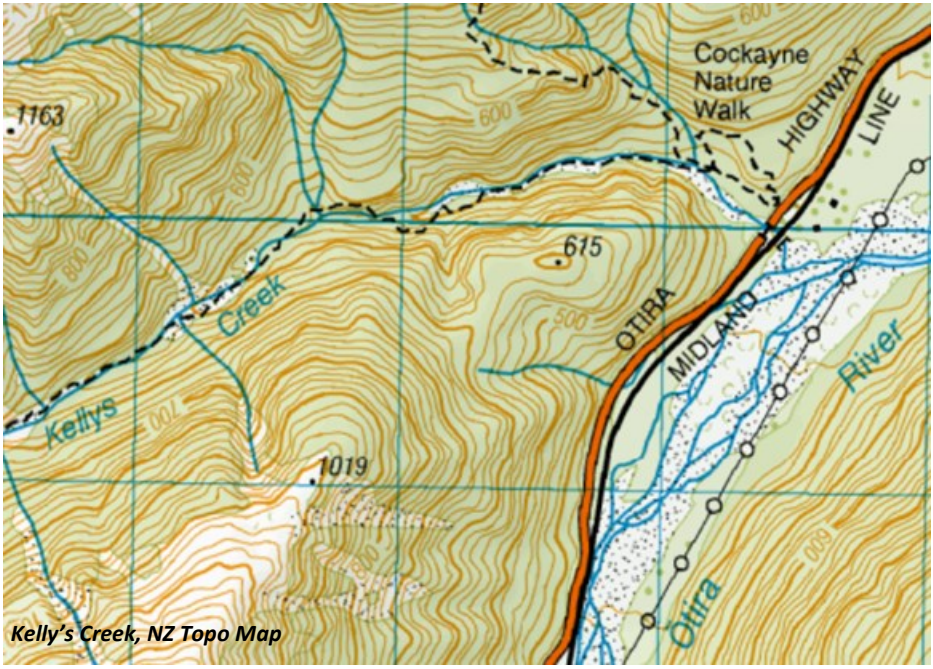
He expressed his gratitude to Daniel Oliver, British botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and University College London, in the specific name *oliveri*. He never met Oliver but he wrote to D Morris, Assistant Director at Kew, on 3 November 1886, shortly after WT Thiselton-Dyer had succeeded Hooker as Director,

> *I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letters of June 17th & July 3rd enclosing memos. from Prof Oliver about specimens forwarded by me for comparison with types, and to offer my hearty thanks for prompt & kind attention to my application.*
>
> *I shall gladly send Mr. Dyer sets of such new plants as I meet with. I hope at the end of the present season to have a few to forward.*
>
> *I find Prof. Oliver's notes of the greatest value.*

Oliver's memos have not survived. Petrie was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in the same year, 1886, was president of the Auckland Institute, was a Council member of the New Zealand Institute for many years, a member of its Board of Governors, President in 1915, and one of its 20 original Fellows. He was awarded the Hector Memorial Medal and Prize. Three years before his death he gave the Dominion Museum his herbarium of some 1,800 species from nearly 15,000 sites.

Gordon Sylvester, that authority on the Arthur's Pass area, warned me that the Kelly's Creek track "no longer exists, DOC took it out two years ago. It is still navigable though and *P. oliveri* is quite common on the lower levels just above the car parks."

Indeed it is. We parked there on 3 December 2022, but had already spotted *P. oliveri* and *P. australis* at the side of the metal track to the carpark from the moving car. There were more *P. oliveri* just after the start of the Cockayne Nature Walk.



Kelly's Creek, NZ Topo Map

***The relative sizes of P. australis* and *P. oliveri* at Kelly's Creek (1cm grid)**

***Pterostylis oliveri* at Kelly's Creek, Otira.**

P. oliveri,* watercolour by Jessie Brownlee, Auckland Museum *collection.

Join the new NZNOG Facebook group

At last years NZNOG AGM it was decided to set up a private Facebook group for members and researchers, to provide a communication channel for us to discuss topics of interest, event announcements and suchlike. The website (www.nativeorchids.co.nz) and journals continue as usual, and this is an additional resource. Posting your observations to iNaturalist is great for identification by experts and recording the data of distributions and flowering times for research purposes.

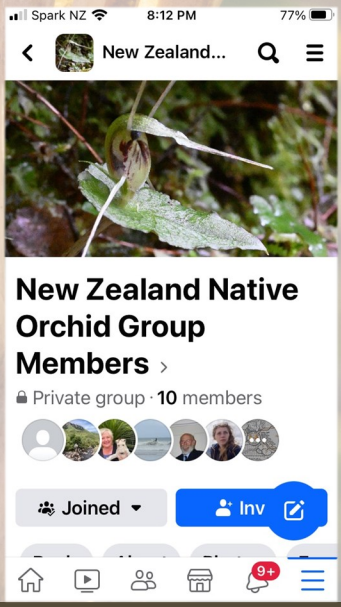
The Facebook group has now been set up, and you can request to join the group in two ways:

- Type this into your internet browser: www.facebook.com/groups/627143372960959/.
- On your Facebook account, go to "Groups" and search for "New Zealand Native Orchid Group Members".

If you don't already have a Facebook profile you will need to set one up first. Once you click on the "Join group" button an administrator will accept your request.

We are looking forward to some interesting chats!

Max Hill (Facebook Group Administrator)



Upcoming Events

July 2024—Registrations open for CATLINS conservation trip (Department of Conservation)

August 2024—CATLINS conservation trip to Te Rere Reserve and Otanomomo Scientific Reserve (Department of Conservation)

6-9 October 2024—WHANGĀREI, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Conference.

25-29 November 2024—ROTORUA, New Zealand Ecological Society Conference

30 November 2024—NZNOG Annual General Meeting and field days

31 November—8 December 2024—NZNOG Tagalong, Tararua, Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges

6-8 December 2024—IWITAHI Native Orchid Reserve Working Bee

7 December 2024—CANTERBURY Botanical Society Field Trip: Orchids of Arthur's Pass, A day trip led by the New Zealand Native Orchid Group.

Do you know about an upcoming event that the NZNOG may be interested in? Let me know by email: caralisa95@gmail.com

Corybas oblongus and C. acuminatus in Fiordland National Park, October 2020 (Mary-Jean Paterson)

The inbox

Editor's top picks from recent iNaturalist observations

Derek Onley
March 2024 | Charleston | iNaturalist

▼ *Genoplesium pumilum*

Earina autumnalis ▲

Indy Marshall
March 2024 | Matarangi Bluff Scenic Reserve | iNaturalist

Can you help this orchid research?

Do you have photos of any of the following species along with a date and location?

Acianthus sinclairii
Adenochilus gracilis
Aporostylis bifolia
Caladenia lyallii
Chiloglottis cornuta
Corybas acuminatus
Corybas cheesemanii
Corybas macranthus
Corybas oblongus
Dendrobium cunninghamii
Drymoanthus adversus
Earina autumnalis
Gastrodia cunninghamii
Gastrodia sesamoides
Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae
Pterostylis alobula
Pterostylis agathicola
Pterostylis brumalis
Pterostylis irsoniana
Pterostylis patens
Pterostylis trullifolia
Thelymitra carnea
Thelymitra cyanea
Thelymitra nervosa
Waireia stenopetala

Joe Dillon is a Masters student at Victoria University of Wellington and is looking into the responses of our native orchids to changes in climate over the last 164 years. While you may not be quite old enough to have records dating back that far you can still help his research by:

- Joining Joe's project on iNaturalist here (https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/climate-change-and-new-zealand-orchids), and adding your observations. Make sure you select "trust" when you join the project.
- Email Joe directly with your photos and the associated locations and dates, or any questions you may have. His email is: wellyshungrybotanist@gmail.com

Any help is greatly appreciated!

JDi