ASTELIADS OF THE AUCKLAND AREA, INCLUDING COROMANDEL

Supplementary to notes in Auck. Bot. Soc. Bull. by J.M. Wheeler, 1967

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Nov., 1967.

	ASTELIA				COLLOSPERMUM			
	solandri	trinervia	banksii	fragrans	grandis	nervosa	hastatum	microspermum
Lf-sheath TS	V	V	V	V	V	V	U	U
Infl.								
No. racemes (1)	many	many	many	many	many	few	few	few
Peduncles (2)	long arched	long arched ♂ stiffer ♀	mid arched	short straight	short straight	short straight	mid arched	mid arched
Fruit								
size (3)	small	small	mid	large	large	large	small	small
substance	translucent	translucent	opaque	opaque	opaque	opaque	translucent	translucent
colour	green/ brownish	red	white/ magenta	orange	orange	orange	yellow/red	white
Old perianth	membr. star	membr. star	membr. star	fleshy plate	fleshy plate	fleshy cup	membr. cup	membr. cup
Site (4)	E (T)	T (E)	T,E,R	T	T	T	E,R (T)	E,R (T)
Abundance about Auckland	common	common	common	rare	rare	rare	common	rare

(1) few means up to about 12. Young plants of all spp. have simple infls. Where the racemes are many the lower ones come off in groups of 3-5.

(2) long means many times longer than wide, us. long enough to hold infls clear of lf-sheaths.

(3) small means c. 5 mm. diam., large up to 10 mm. diam.

(4) E = epiphyte; T = terrestrial; R = growing on rocks

Rarer asteliads can be recognised by following extra characters:

A. fragrans, slightly swampy places to dry banks; lvs large, to 7 ft. long, drooping tapering finely to tips; two main nerves forming raised ridges on both surfaces of lf.

A. grandis, very swampy and peaty places but persisting where such ground has dried out; lvs large, to 7 ft. long, stiff almost to top, tapering rather abruptly to tips; two main nerves forming raised ridges mainly on upper, green surface of lf.

A. nervosa (formerly A. cockaynei) damp places; lvs mostly < 4ft, stiffly arched, shaggy on margins and with fine silvery skin on upper surface.

C. microspermum, lf rarely more than 3-4 cm. wide; ♂ fls off-white and sour-smelling (in C. hastatum warm cream and fragrant); probably only at higher altitudes, likely to be growing with A. solandri and not very different from it in lf-width.