

NOTES ON HYMENOPHYLLUM PELTATUM
(POIR) DESV

By L. RODWAY

(Read 19th May, 1913.)

Prof. Ewart has recently pointed out (*Proc. R. S. Vict.* Oct., 1911) that the fern which has been familiar to us as *H. Wilsoni*, Hook, or *H. unilaterale*, Willd, will be more correctly named if we call it *H. peltatum*, Desv,

This little fern is very widely dispersed in Tasmania. It and *H. tunbridgense*, L., are the only two members of the genus with serrated leaves which are natives of Tasmania. The two used to be confounded, but the great difference of the indusia permits of immediate recognition. In *H. tunbridgense* the indusia are semicircular with a straight serrate terminal margin. In *H. peltatum* the indusium is oblong, with an entire margin. *H. peltatum* varies in size. In the commonest condition in which it is found the leaf does not exceed 5 c.m. in length, the pinnæ about 1 c.m., giving the plant much the appearance of *H. tunbridgense*, except that the pinnules almost all grow on the upper margin of the pinnæ. When the plant grows under more favourable conditions it acquires a much taller habit. The leaf may be as long as 17 c.m., though the breadth does not increase. The pinnules are erect, but when at all wilted they recurve, giving the leaf a characteristic appearance.