

- Layout
- Suitability for publication.
- Preference given to plants that are rarely, or have not been, illustrated in a readily available form. For example an illustration of an uncommon wetland plant would be of more scientific value than a picture of a lancewood.
- Caption to go with illustration e.g. name of plant, where it came from and the date it was collected and/or drawn.
- Botanical notes, or comments of interest about the plant or both.
- Artistic merit.

### Prizewinners – Audrey Eagle competition for Botanical Drawing.

Congratulations to Monica Peters, who won first prize of \$100, with her black and white drawings of *Gingidia montana*, (front & back cover) and to Toni Atkinson, who came second, with a colourful oil painting of *Datura*.

Audrey was impressed by the high standard of all 5 entries, which covered a wide range of styles and subjects. She hopes that there will be more entries next year, now that there are clearer guidelines and the entry date has been extended to September 2005. I'm thrilled to be able to feature all these exciting works of art, along with the interesting botanical notes that came with them. Look out for them over the next 5 issues. Monica's drawings are featured on the cover and the membership form, with details of flowers and seeds in the above article and contents page. Her notes follow.

***Gingidia montana*** (JR & G Forst) JW Dawson

*Monica Peters*

Genus: *Gingidia*

Family: Umbelliferae

Cheeseman (1914) recorded this species as having been discovered during Cook's first voyage to New Zealand. Described as a "lush, tufted herb" reaching up 0.5 m in height (Moore & Irwin, 1978), the whole plant is highly aromatic with an odour resembling aniseed. Compound flower heads are up to 10 cm across (Mark & Adams, 1973).

*Gingidia montana* is widely distributed, from the middle of the North Island southwards, though not on Stewart Island. Habitat is moist open sites in forest, scrub and snow tussock-herbfield, though now largely restricted to inaccessible rocky bluffs due to browsing (Mark & Adams, 1973). Cheeseman (1914) describes *G. montana* as "greedily sought after by cattle and sheep" observing – nearly a century ago from today, its comparative scarcity where it once was abundant.

In the Bot. Soc. Otago Newsletter (No. 38, 7.8.2003) Heenan and Patrick agree on there being an ‘..unnamed species of *Gingidia* in NE Otago..’. Heenan suggests that Mt Watkin forms the southern limit to its distribution. He highlights the importance of this site, with the *Gingidia*’s demise in previously recorded locations in Trotters Gorge.

The illustrations are composites derived from sources including Cheeseman (1914), Webb & Simpson (2001) as well as several herbarium specimens from the Otago region.

## **Mt Watkin - Hikaroa Reserve announced!** *A. Knight & R. Bridges*

Mt Watkin – Hikaroa has been the focus of two BSO trips and several articles in the newsletter over the last 3 years. The first explored the summit area, where rare and threatened subalpine herbs, lichens and mosses are sheltered by the tumble of extruded basalt, which forms extensive rock glaciers. The second trip explored the remnant podocarp forest down in the valley, where steep cliffs form refugia for the rarer and more palatable species. With the encouragement of members of the Mt Watkin Working Party, Robyn and Allison made a submission on behalf of BSO, urging that these areas be protected. So we were thrilled when the Dunedin City Council announced recently that it will create a 480 ha conservation reserve on DCC endowment land. We were a little embarrassed that the *Otago Daily Times* (13.4.04) singled out BSO in their feature article on the proposed reserve. The importance of the native forest at Mt Watkin was first recognised in a DSIR report in 1986. This was followed by a long campaign involving local groups such as Forest & Bird, the Dunedin Environment Centre and the Otago Tree Society, supported by the Otago Conservation Board. Our involvement only came after the DCC had established the Mt Watkin Working Party in 1999, so we would like to give credit to all the hard work that went before. We are delighted at the outcome, and pleased to have been able to contribute.

At its final meeting on 15 April this year, the Mt Watkin working party voted to support the incorporation of the remaining 380 ha of the endowment land into the reserve. By doing this the whole reserve would be already fenced. The extra land contains significant areas of regenerating native vegetation as well as farmland. A charitable trust is being set up to undertake fundraising to buy this last piece of endowment land from the council. They would welcome support from individuals and organizations. Please contact Rob Mitchell, 453 0876 or Ralph Allen 453 0876, email [harptree@xtra.co.nz](mailto:harptree@xtra.co.nz) for further information

## **Orokonui Sanctuary – Te Korowai o Mihiwaka**

You may have heard of the exciting proposal to develop the **Orokonui Sanctuary – Te Korowai o Mihiwaka**, to enclose a large area of regenerating forest in a mammal/predator-proof fence (like Karori in Wellington) and to restore (in time) a number of precious indigenous species to this area once pests have been removed. The