

The 30th was break camp and homeward bound, with time for a stop at Foleys Reserve just north of Kaitaia. This is an area of bush which has been grazed by cattle but has recently been reserved and fenced off. It is one of the last sites of *Christella dentata* which is almost extinct in New Zealand. Other relatively rare plants in this reserve include *Pittosporum obcordatum*, *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* and *Mazus novaezeelandiae*. After Mr Foley had cracked the whip we all departed.

Thanks especially to Maureen and Frank as leaders and those who helped them with the organising, and also to everyone else on the trip for a very enjoyable six days.

Illustration: Bot Soccers emulating ostriches.



***Senecio esleri* makes it into the Waikato**

P. J. de Lange

Senecio esleri is an adventive species of erectitoid *Senecio* first described as new to science from New Zealand material collected from the Auckland area (Webb, 1989). At that time the species was known only from Auckland and parts of Northland (*loc. cit.*). However as has already been observed with other erectitoid *Senecios* in New Zealand e.g., *S. hispidulus* (Drury, 1974) and *S. diaschides* (de Lange, 1990), the spread of this species into the Waikato seemed inevitable (C. J. Webb *pers. comm.*, 1991).

While stuck in the tedium of a south-bound traffic jam near the railway crossing at Huntly (NZMS 260 S13 010023) on the 19 of September 1993, I observed 12 or so immature plants of *Senecio esleri* protruding from the gravel bordering the railway track. Having nothing better to do, I got out of my vehicle and collected a specimen (AK 222882 duplicate in CHR). This collection appears to be the first time this species has been discovered south of Auckland City. At the time I assumed that having made it into the Waikato *S. esleri* would spread rapidly through the region. Oddly, despite looking, I

have not seen this species in the Waikato since. Maybe those immature plants I saw at Huntly never made it to maturity?

References

- de Lange, P. J. 1990: *Senecio diaschides* in the western Waikato. *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 22:9.
- Drury, D. G. 1974: Illustrated and annotated key to the erectitoid *Senecios* in New Zealand (Senecioneae-Compositae) with a description of *Senecio diaschides*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 12: 513-540.
- Webb, C. J. 1989: *Senecio esleri* (Asteraceae), a new fireweed. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 27:565-567.

“Alien Plants of the British Isles” by E. J. Clement and M. C. Foster. Botanical Society of the British Isles. London. 1994. 590 pp.

Reviewed by R. O. Gardner

This hefty handbook stands somewhere between a List and a Flora, pronouncing on (to use the authors' expression) four thousand two hundred plants not native to the British Isles. Ferns and gymnosperms are included, but not the grasses, which will get their own volume.

Aliens are plants which have been found in the wild, but by no means all are “properly” naturalised, some, for example, just being plants that have been deliberately put into otherwise natural habitats.

There are three “categories of persistence”.

- casual - not persisting in a locality for more than two years without re-introduction;
- persistent - remaining longer than two years but unlikely to be permanent, not reproducing by seed or vigorously spreading vegetatively;
- established - likely to remain permanently, at least one colony either reproducing by seed or vigorously spreading vegetatively.

Two other terms are frequently used:

- introduced - deliberately planted or sown in the wild;
- naturalised - established extensively among native vegetation so as to appear native.

Aliens are further described by their most common mode of introduction to the country - “ballast weed”, “wool alien” i.e. plants growing from seed brought in baled wool, “bird-seed contaminant”, “soya bean impurity”, “garden discard”, etc.

New Zealand natives feature fairly well, though quite a number of wool aliens that we share with Australia - daisies, rushes and the like, might have entered from that country. We do best with garden escapes, where even a single seedling alongside the parent plant qualifies for an entry. Listed among other NZ species and hybrids are four acaenas, six carices, four cotulas, five epilobiums, twelve hebes, seven olearias, and three pittosporums. These plants occur mostly in the laxer climates, especially in the southwest. Typical entries are:

Coprosma repens An established garden escape; abundant near St Werna's Well, St Agnes, and bird-sown in woodland on Tresco and on walls at Porthcressa beach, St Mary's (all Scilly) [where it baffles visitors with the name tree bedstraw].

Griselinia littoralis Seedlings have been recorded from Penzance (W. Cornwall), Rhu (Dunbarton), on sea-cliffs near Kilmelford (Main Argyll)...