

The Botanical Society has much pleasure in extending a welcome to our new Superintendent of Parks, Mr. J.A. Macpherson, N.Z.N.D.H. All members of our Society are naturally interested in the development of our Parks and Reserves. Mr. Macpherson is already well known to many of us through his most useful little book "The Complete New Zealand Gardener", a mine of useful horticultural information and helpful practical suggestions.

Mr. McPherson received a training in Horticulture and Forestry at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and has had considerable practical experience in various parts of England. In 1926 he came to New Zealand, where he was first at Dunedin, and later at Christchurch, superintendent of Public Parks and Gardens. He is interested in native as well as foreign plants, and his South Island experience may lead to the introduction of further beautiful South Island trees and flowers into our Auckland gardens. In any case we take this opportunity of wishing him every success in his future fascinating, if exacting, work. We hope to become further acquainted with him in the future - perhaps one day he may come and lecture to us!

BOTANICAL REVISIONS III

NEW ZEALAND SPECIES OF METROSIDEROS

| Name as in Cheeseman's Manual        |                            | Revised Name                              |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Metrosideros florida</i> , Sm.    | Aka                        | <i>M. scandens</i> (Forst.)<br>Druce.     |
| <i>M. lucida</i> , A.Rich.           | Southern Rata              | <i>M. umbellata</i> , Cav.                |
| <i>M. diffusa</i> , Sm.              | Carmine Rata               | <i>M. carminea</i> ,<br>W.R. Oliver       |
| <i>M. hypericifolia</i>              |                            | <i>M. diffusa</i> (Forst.)<br>W.R. Oliver |
| <i>M. scandens</i> , Sol. et Gaertn. |                            | <i>M. perforata</i> (Forst.)<br>Rich.     |
| <i>M. tomentosa</i> , A. Rich.       | Pohutukawa                 | <i>M. excelsa</i> , Sol. ex<br>Gaertn.    |
| <i>M. villosa</i> , Sm.              | Kermadec Is.<br>Pohutukawa | <i>M. Kermadecensis</i> ,<br>W.R. Oliver  |

The following four species remain unaltered:-

- M. Parkinsonii
  - M. albiflora (white rata)
  - M. Colensoi
  - M. robusta (rata)
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M. robusta var. intermedia is now known to be a hybrid between Rata and Pohutukawa, and is called x M. subtomentosa (The use of "x" before the name indicates hybridism). For further reference see 'N.Z. Species of Metrosideros' by W.R.B. Oliver, Trans. of New Zealand Institute, Vol. 59, p.419; also Vol. 56, pages 5 and 27.

These revisions have been made since the publication of Cheeseman's Manual (1925).

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#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Miss Pat Thomas, has retired from the Staff of the Botanical Department, and is now engaged in research work in Zoology. We wish Miss Thomas every success in her present work, and hope to continue to see her at our meetings.

Miss De Berg has been appointed to the staff of the Botanical Department, she hopes this year to complete her research of pohutukawa.

Members will be glad to know that Mr. N. Theilmann, a member of our committee has been awarded a Senior Scholarship in Botany, by the University of New Zealand. The award is made to the student gaining highest marks in New Zealand in Senior Botany. Congratulations to Mr. Theilman.

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