

'Forster ... recorded it as a native of NZ and stated that the roots were eaten by the natives; but as he only collected in the South Island it is extremely improbable that he ever saw it in NZ, and there is no other record of the roots being eaten'.

The species was eventually transferred to Dicranopteris, using the earlier name linearis, from Polypodium lineare Burman 1768.

By 1961 (Allan Flora 1: p.21) Forster and his edible roots were no longer of interest and were not even mentioned. Allan however, states that the species is endemic! An error surely? The few remaining NZ plants are now on the 'rare and endangered' list, but not because they have been cooked and eaten!

9 August 1984

The observant will have noticed that in the earlier Forster note on Avicennia resinifera (Newsletter 39: January 1984, p.21) I gave the date of the Esculentis as 21 April 1785, and in this note as 21 September 1785. Apparently both are correct. The thesis was presented on 21 April and George was examined on it on 21 September. Hoare gives the earlier date in the Resolution Journal of J.R. Forster 1: 1982, p.87; and the later date in Tactless Philosopher 1976, p.248.

LARGE-LEAVED PRIVET (<u>Ligustrum lucidum</u>)		height 5.5m crown spread 4m		
	Branches	number	length (m)	
	1 primary	42	59.2	
	2 secondary	924	225.0	
	3 tertiary	745	105.1	
	4 quaternary	59	28.0	
		<u>1770</u>	<u>417.3</u>	
Dimensions of a 5 year old plant growing through a bottlebrush at Mt Albert	Number of leaves	12,619		
	Area of leaves	37.8 sq m		
		first branch at 1.5m		
A.E.Esler 24.9.84		trunk diameter 12cm		