

FRONTISPIECE

HEBE LAVAUDIANA RAOUL

M.J.A. Simpson

Hebe lavaudiana is known only from Banks Peninsula where it grows on the higher rocks along the crests of the ancient calderas. It was first collected by Etienne Fiacre Louis Raoul (1815-1852) and described and illustrated in his book "Choix de Plantes de la Nouvelle Zélande", Paris, 1846.

Raoul was surgeon to the French vessels "l'Aube" and "l'Allier" and was based at Akaroa from 15th August 1840 until 11th January 1843. The species name commemorates Captain Charles Francois Lavaud (1798-1878) who commanded "l'Aube" and who administered the French settlement until January 1843.

Hebe lavaudiana is an upright, rather open growing semi-woody shrub up to 40 cm tall. It is an attractive plant with bluish-green toothed leaves margined in red, and is particularly pleasing in November and December when panicles of pinkish-lavender flowers cover the bushes. Large seeds, 4-6 in each capsule, are produced in abundance, but seedlings are not commonly found although there seem to be plenty of suitable places for them to establish. In the exposed habitat strong buffeting winds shake the erect stiff stems so that seeds are dispersed soon after the capsules open. In laboratory tests seeds germinated better at cooler temperatures of 10° and 20° centigrade.

References:

- Godley, E.J. 1967. A century of botany in Canterbury. T.R.S.N.Z. (General) 1 (22), 243-266.
- Ed. Scholefield, G.H. 1940. A Dictionary of New Zealand Biography 1, A-L, Wellington.
- Simpson, M.J.A. 1976. E.F.L. and E.F.A. Raoul, N.Z. Journal of Botany 14, 199-202.

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE BOTANY OF CANTERBURY

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ARRANGEMENT

Items are arranged in four sections. In the GENERAL section publications covering the whole province are listed in chronological order. There follows a GEOGRAPHICAL section in which the papers are arranged from north to south according to the locality which they describe. In a section on HABITATS papers describing vegetation types and plant communities are arranged from coastal to alpine rocks. Finally short articles recording where individual species have been found are listed by author in chronological order.