

phyllaries or involucre bracts: 1-2 series in *colensoi*, "several series" in *lyallii*, 2-3 series in var. *grandis*! The leaves of *grandis* and *lyallii* are far from dissimilar, not only in the tomentose edge with its rows of succulent teeth (possibly a little more orderly in *lyallii*), but, perhaps more significantly, in the tendency for the side veins to branch off all the way up the main vein, rather than spring more conspicuously from near the basal region, as they do in typical *colensoi*. In this respect, the non-coastal, river-and-upland tupari of Stewart Island appears to hover between the two patterns. I have yet to see fresh flower heads of *lyallii*, but those dried heads in the Dominion Museum herbarium, long since gone to seed, do seem to me to resemble in size, colour, density of floral arrangement, and general aspect, those of typical *grandis*. Photographs of *O. lyallii* scrub along the shore of Auckland Island could just as easily have been taken on one of the Bravo Islands in Paterson Inlet, where rugged-trunked *grandis* leans and sprawls out over the cliffs and beaches.

Olearia colensoi var. *grandis*, then, seems to me to fall between two stools; it is not quite *colensoi*, and not quite *lyallii*. Perhaps an identification-parade of fresh flowers and other material, all the way from Mt Hikurangi to Auckland Island, could be managed in these days of helicopter transport, refrigerated storage and the affluent society?

Since this article was received, the relationships of the large-headed olearias have been further discussed by Drury (*N.Z. J Bot.* 6:459-466) who also finds little to separate *O. lyalli* from *O. colensoi* var. *grandis*, nor *O. angustifolia* from *O. chathamica*.—Ed.

Book Review

New Zealand Mosses, by Sheila Natusch. Pegasus Press, Christchurch, 24 pp. Price 50 cents.

INFORMATION on New Zealand mosses is so inaccessible to a beginner that this small booklet cannot but be welcomed. It provides an excellent introduction to the subject. Although only a few of the 400-500 New Zealand mosses, and, of course, none of the introduced mosses, are mentioned, a careful selection has been made so as to include the more striking ones. Sketches by the author of 20 of these are a great help in identification. The informal style of the booklet should appeal to Junior Naturalists but others also will find the material useful.

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