

A beginner's guide to species lists

The beginning botanist may feel overwhelmed by the learned pronouncements and jottings of his more experienced field companions. To help the beginner understand the jargon, the following are offered as a selection of names, as might be found in (anonymous) field note books, etc., followed by their real meanings.

Epilobium sp. — any small creeping plant.

Rubus sp. — any nasty prickly plant.

Coprosma (?) sp. — any small-leaved twiggy bush.

Acaena sp. — it was difficult to pick off my socks.

Uncinia sp. — even more so.

Cortaderia sp. — it was getting late and I was tired, and it was growing too far up the hill.

grass sp. — I am waiting for the grass volume of the Flora.

B. tawa — I don't know how to spell '*Beilschmiedia*'.

Microtis uniflora — Latin was not my best subject at school.

Blechnum chambersii — I was on a Bot. Soc. trip last week.

B. aggregatum — I was on a Bot. Soc. trip last year.

B. lanceolatum — I have not been on a Bot. Soc. trip in two years.

Gentiana sp. (a) — I will go back when it flowers.

G. sp. (b) — I will go back when it fruits.

G. sp. (c) — It was not (a) or (b).

G. sp. (d) — it was not (a), (b) or (c) and it's about time 'they' sorted this lot out.

Carex sp. (*C. geminata* agg.) — some sort of cutty grass, and as long as no-one sorts this lot out I am grateful for not having to look any closer.

Hebe sp. (a) x *Hebe* sp. (b) — It was a *Hebe* I couldn't identify.

Ascarina lucida (?) — it might have been pukatea but it is more noteworthy to find *Ascarina*.

Logania depressa (?) — it was almost certainly *Coprosma pumila*, but I fancy another trip there.

Olea lanceolata — I know it's white maire but I refuse to learn another new name until 'they' decide for sure.

Toronia toru — but I have 'The Oxford Book of N.Z. Plants'.

Pseudo. col. and *Cyath. col.* — it's anyone's guess.

C. C. OGLE

. . . and now for the advanced student

Hebe pimelea (*Pittosp?*) — I wasn't sure whether it was *H. pimeleoides* or a *Pimelea* (or even *Pittosporum pimeleoides?*).

Stellaria elatinoides/*Elatine gratioides*/*Gratiola nana* (?) — take your pick (they all look the same anyway).

Ranunculus limosella/*limosella lineata* (?) — ditto (even more so).

Alisma plantago-aquatica and *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* — I like using double-barrelled names — it gives one social standing (and the beginner is misled into the bargain).

Hypolepis rufgobarbatasula — it's a rough go when one hasn't got a key to separate these ferns, so I'm lumping them together.

Dacrydium bi (*dwillii* or *forme*) — I haven't time to dwell on the different forms, so I indulge in a little bi-play.

Koelaria N.Z. — I don't know — and have no intention of finding out whether the spelling is *novae-zelandiae*, *novaezealandiae*, *novae-selandiae*, *novaezeelandiae*, *novazelandica*, *novo-zelandica*, *novozealandica*, *novoseelandica*, *novozelandensis*, *neozelandica*, *neo-zealandica*, *neo-zealandensis*, *neozelanica*, *zelandica*, *zealandica*, *zelandiae*, *zeelondona*, or worst of all *neo-zeylandica*, this last perpetrated by none other than Druce in *2nd Suppl.*