

## 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.*

- Rep. bot. (Soc.) Exch. Cl. Manchr. for 1916 1917, 646 (phew!). (Next time just for a change we could perhaps have noo-zill'ndiae.)*
- Clay. Mont. Pax. Neo. Mont.* — I'm doing my best to keep up on the circular racetrack.
- Phyll./Don.* — I can't remember which is 'yellow-green and knobby' and which is 'blue green and pointed'.
- Axerbi brexioides* — I find these anagrams most axerbecating.
- Oleocins colensoi* — I do know how to spell 'Colenso' (and that he changed places for his sins).
- Hebe* sp. (aff. *rigidula*) — I can't afford to be wrong.
- Gnaphalium luteo-album* agg. — it aggravates me in the extreme that I cannot tell which one it is.
- Uncinia uncinata* (unc) — I have uncovered an uncouth plant (I wish it really was unc!)
- Coprosma* sp. (cf. *foetidissima*) — I cffed it and it smelt as though it might be.
- Chionochloa flavescens* (auct. South Island, non *C. flavescens* Zotov) — I know this is a much better food plant for the great South Island Auct. than the flavourless non-stuff of the Tararuas.
- Metrosideros colensoi* (incl. *M.C. var. pendens*) — I am inclined to think that the inclination of the pendent branches indicates that I have correctly identified this individual.
- Hebe odora* s.s. — I am driven slightly silly trying to distinguish this plant from its numerous relatives.
- Taraxacum officinale* s.l. — I think that is a sly plant not reproducing by s . . . l means like all decent plants do.
- Pseudopanax arbore* — um! What a bore — us folks can never keep up with the gender revolution.
- Rubus sch.* — I find it easiest to schut up there, and forget about the e-i-o's.
- Schiezelima* sp. — My eyes are not at ease looking at this plant.
- 491 — I know what this plant is and you don't! You'll never, never get it, so here's a clue: 491 = 480 + 10 + 1, translate (anagram). (The sender of the first envelope opened containing the correct answer will receive a first-class one-way air ticket to PK — another clue).

A. P. DRUCE

## TIME FOR A CHANGE

The Society now has a new editor, Colin Ogle, and after this number the editorial and printing work for the Bulletin will once again be carried out in Wellington. It is healthy for any publication to have a periodic change of management, bringing fresh ideas on style and content, and I am sure the Bulletin will thrive under its new editor and benefit from being closer to the membership. The retiring editor deeply regrets the delayed appearance of this issue, which has been particularly unfair to some early contributors, but looks back with pleasure on time spent over the years on presenting and arranging a variety of contributed material to best advantage. The standard of presentation and content of some of the articles submitted is now very high, but there must always be a place for less formal contributions from members for it is first and foremost their publication. In its time the Bulletin has made available much interesting and useful information which would otherwise not have been published. Long may it continue to do so.

EDITOR