

VEGETATION MAP OF TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK. By I.A.E. Atkinson. Published by Science Information Division, D.S.I.R. Wellington, 1981.

A booklet, small enough to carry in a pack but not a pocket consists of 1:50,000 full-colour map, which when folded fits into a pocket inside the back cover, and 27 pages of notes. Contains information about the climate, landform, ash deposits, soils, introduced and native fauna and flora, and distribution of vegetation types.

Vegetation within the Park is classified under 12 headings from forest to ice and snow-field, which are represented on the map by different colours. Mapping units are designated by symbols using letters and signs which can convey the principal species present in the unit and, in the case of a mosaic, the dominant species and their relative height and abundance. The information obtainable from the map should enable one to decide on the type of vegetation cover from some distance away which would seem to be a very worth while use to which the map could be put.

We have one criticism and that is that two lists of plant names, one in the notes, and the glossary on the map, are in alphabetical order of common names, and further that in the vegetation legend though the letter symbols come from the scientific names they are equated with common names. e.g. Ls (Leptospermum scoparium) manuka.

If one list was in alphabetical order of scientific names the user would become more familiar with what is after all the only way of consulting a flora and one could include Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand under this heading.

This does not, however, detract in anyway from the usefulness of the map and accompanying notes and Mr Atkinson is to be congratulated on the amount of information he has been able to incorporate into one map.

One addition to the notes could have been a list of the native birds to accompany the one of introduced bird species, which would have saved reading completely through the notes to make sure that no browsing moas were recorded.

We feel sure that this work would add greatly to the enjoyment of any visit to this National Park and in particular to the botanical knowledge gained from such a visit. Ed.

EAGLES TREES AND SHRUBS OF NEW ZEALAND SECOND SERIES.
By Audrey Eagle. Published by William Collins, 1982.

This book is a must for those interested in New Zealand trees and shrubs. The purpose of this review is not to attempt to do what has already been done more competently by many others, though we offer due praise for the excellence of the colour reproductions of the plants and their parts, but that we consider that it is a statement on the present state of knowledge of our trees and shrubs, particularly as set out by A.P. Druce in what he calls a working check-list. 'Trees, Shrubs, and Lianes of New Zealand (including wild hybrids)'.

Audrey Eagle's book includes Druce's unnamed species as she acknowledges in the text, and it is here that her book is so valuable, enabling one to identify taxa which in many cases have no formal diagnoses. There is a copy in the Society Library and I am sure that it will be a much used book. Ed.