

for concern that lower plants generally still do not receive the attention they ought.

On reflection, at the microbial level, Antarctic ecosystems are probably as complex as their temperate counterparts although at the plant level they are simple. The fundamental action of many important ecological factors, e.g. water, temperature, which are often confusingly interactive in complex ecosystems, can be more easily delineated and studied in these simple plant systems. The results from such studies may lead to a more understandable set of ecological principles, which would be of assistance in unravelling complex ecosystems.

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The authors of the two articles on Antarctica are both members of the Society. Laurie Greenfield is well known to members, having talked to us, as well as for his work in Antarctica.

Paul Broady submitted his article while still lecturing in the Botany School, University of Melbourne. Since then he has been appointed to the position previously held by Graeme MacRaid in the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences (Botany Department), University of Canterbury.

The above two authors and David Given have recently contributed to a scientific report on the Antarctic and it is hoped that one, or some combination of these three, will provide us with an article giving a fuller cover of the antarctic biota for the next Journal.

The map of Antarctica, on pages 38-39, was drawn by Paul Broady, the inset was added with the assistance of the Antarctic Division D.S.I.R. and the University of Canterbury, Printers.

South Orkney Islands

South America

South Shetland Islands

RONNE ICE SHELF

ANTARCTICA

Vestfold Hills

ROSS ICE SHELF

Victoria Land

Ross Island

NEW ZEALAND

ICE - FREE AREAS

0 500 KM 1000

