

On the 5th March 1986 we discovered a number of flowering plants of Urticularia monanthæs growing in a damp hollow in a paddock situated between Wolfes Road and the L11 river not far from where that river flows into Lake Ellesmere. One wonders how such a predominantly mountainous species comes to be growing on a site that has no connection with the mountains. /6

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LATIN ENDINGS OF SPECIFIC NAMES

In 1973 we found that some of the specific names of the plants in the genus Pseudopanax (includes Neopanax) had been changed because the gender of Pseudopanax had been established as being masculine not neuter as previously. So, names such as arboreum became arboreus and lineare became linearis. As for the ones that did not change, like ferox, discolor, and lessonii, perhaps, it is as well that some mysteries remain decently veiled in these times of explicitness.

It was while checking a list of ferns in Derrick Rooney's article, page 46, that an ambiguity was noticed in the endings of the specific names of the members in the genus Hypolepis. Consulting Brownsey et al, 'A revised classification of N.Z. pteridophytes with a synonymic checklist of species ', N.Z. journal of botany 23 1985, of the seven Hypolepis spp listed, in Rooney's article three, the species name ended in a feminine or common to feminine and masculine suffix with the exception of Hypolepis millefolium, which is obviously in the neuter gender. Further consultation with Hooker's Handbook of the N.Z. flora, 1864, gave H. tenuifolia, H. Millefolium, and H. distans. The specific name spelt with a capital? An appeal to Elizabeth Edgar produced an answer. When Hooker 'the father' first described the species in 1852, he used as the specific name Millefolium, the name of another genus of plants. Probably the reason why he used a capital letter. The laws of nomenclature rule that such an epithet does not have to agree in gender with the name of the genus. Hence, Hypolepis, feminine gender; millefolium, neuter gender. The laws do, however, insist that the specific epithets do not start with a capital letter. The only ambiguity remaining is the naming of one of the ferns ? Ed.