

chaos in a land as linguistically diverse as Europe, and, wisely, Latin names alone have been used at every taxonomic level.

The hardiness ratings for the continental climates of Europe are intriguing to a New Zealand reader; the plants are often far less hardy than one would imagine. I hesitated at *Arthropodium cirratum* and *A. candidum* which are both rated at G 1, that is, needing a cool glasshouse even in southern Europe.

The Pteridophyta are rather liberally illustrated in black and white, the rest of the volume less so, but numerous references to illustrations elsewhere in the literature are provided. The book is liberally endowed with keys too, at family, genus, and species level. The textual content I consider to be a model of concise, readable prose, at just the right level of technicality, replete with information, including the essentials of propagation and cultivation. The three-column lay-out of text is easy to read, although some lines are oddly cut as if an unsupervised young computer was set loose on the script.

A couple of hundred dollars for the first of a series of volumes is a lot of money. Is the book relevant to New Zealand? It certainly is; I hope at least some copies end up on library shelves accessible to people working at all levels of botany and horticulture. At the same time it is a specialist, technical, reference work, a pretty remarkable one in my opinion, but not what the average home gardener would want to pay hundreds of dollars for. Will a similar New Zealand or Australian or even Southern Hemisphere Flora ever appear? It is decades away, I imagine. Meanwhile, this fills the gap admirably.

Hugh Wilson

Vegetation of Egmont National Park New Zealand. By Bruce D. Clarkson. Illustrations by J. Bruce Irwin. National Park Scientific Series No 5. Science Information Publishing Centre 1986. Wellington. 95 pp., 4 pp. colour plates, and 16 pp. illustrations; with NZMS 169 Egmont National Park map Ed 7 in back pocket; price \$29.95.

When in Auckland in May my wife and I spent a day with Lucy Moore at her home in Warkworth. She asked if I was thinking of having the 'Vegetation' of Mt Egmont by Clarkson and Irwin reviewed for this journal. Having assured me that it was a good publication and well worth while running a review, she then offered to write one for us herself. Unfortunately Lucy entered hospital only a few days after our visit and had not, by then, made a start on it. Lucy however had written to both the Bruces and they have both kindly given permission to quote from their letters.

Extracts from Lucy's letter to Bruce Irwin.

My copy of the Vegetation of Mt Egmont has just come and I hope you are as pleased with it as I am. I'm delighted that your drawings have been given so much space and that they have been so comfortably spaced in relation to the text. I find the reproduction very satisfying, which incidentally draws my attention to the fact that I can't find any record of where and by whom the printing was done. Is this just one aspect of 'type-setting'? I'm sure you won't have been paid adequately for the hours you put into the drawings but I hope you get a bit of pocket-money for yourself as well as the satisfaction of the final result.

Bruce C. [Clarkson] seems to have made a very good text. I find it surprisingly easy to read and he builds up a quite straight-forward mental picture of the vegetation of the whole mountain. At the same time the detail in the appendices is impressive - a huge amount of work to be reduced to such an apparently simple survey of the veg. types. The vegetation and substrate map is very successful - did you draft it too?' [No.]

Extracts from Lucy's letter to Bruce Clarkson

My copy of your Vegetation of Egmont National Park has now reached me and I'd like to congratulate you on the completion of the big job. I have read all your text - except the appendices - and am impressed with your skill in presenting such a complicated story in such a deceptively simple way. I found it really enjoyable reading.

It is good to see Bruce Irwin's drawings so well used - given enough space and placed cleverly to fit the nearby text. This should widen the appeal of the strictly scientific report to all visitors to the Park.

To expand Lucy's remarks; even for those who are unlikely to ever visit Mt. Taranaki the standard of the black and white photographs by B.R. Boase, the colour plates by Boase and the author, and the line drawings by Bruce Irwin make it worthwhile buying. As well there are interesting accounts of the geology, soils, climate, browsing animals, and human activity in the park.

Lucy Moore