

DAVID ROGER GIVEN 1943–2005

A TRIBUTE

Bryony Macmillan

21 Bannister Place, Burnside, Christchurch 8053

David's boyhood passion was for ferns. This culminated in a manuscript on the ferns of Banks Peninsula, where *Anarthropteris lanceolata* and *Pteris tremula* were rediscovered. Although this manuscript has not been found his voucher specimens are a permanent record for the period. His paper on the ecology of *Pleurosorus rutifolius* on the Port Hills has always been valuable to our members.

David joined the taxonomy staff of Botany Division, DSIR in 1965 while completing his PhD in the taxonomy of *Celmisia*. The years 1969-1975 saw the publication of papers relating to this study, including for example the name change of *Celmisia* "coriacea" to *C. semicordata* because of an earlier misapplication of name. The study of *Celmisia* extended to Australia as a collaborative treatment. His interest in ferns continued, with ecological papers on subantarctic and thermal region ferns, and five contributions to the New Zealand Nature Heritage series published by Hamlyn's Ltd.

From the early 1970s David was increasingly concerned with the conservation of rare native plants, the need for awareness and legislation, and the inadequacy of our Native Plant Protection Act of 1934. From 1976 this was the major focus of his work and led to the first register of threatened plants in New Zealand. There followed his attendance at symposia in many countries, and appointments to committees here and abroad, in particular the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and NZ Plant Conservation Network. Our members will have used his book "Threatened Plants of New Zealand" co-authored with Cathy Wilson, with many examples of David's plant photography.

On becoming keeper of the herbarium for DSIR at Lincoln (now Landcare Research) David piloted the application of the computer to herbarium specimen data and its retrieval. As one of the team of writers for "Flora of New Zealand" Volume 4 he carried out an extensive field investigation into the microspecies of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate Fig. 1).

Following the demise of DSIR in 1992 David was appointed to a lectureship in conservation at the Isaac Centre, Lincoln University, and he subsequently became botanical curator for the Christchurch Botanic

Gardens. At the time of his death he was part of a team researching the age and origin of the Chatham Islands flora.

Karina and David brought up a daughter and two sons at their house and garden in Jeffreys Road, Bryndwr.

David's career was many faceted. He had the nervous and physical courage to go to extremes to promote conservation, for example to stay in a South American forest encampment at risk of contracting giardia. He travelled to Antarctica as member of a biological research team, where mosses and lichens at Terra Nova Bay were documented, and later as natural history lecturer with tour voyagers. David would have travelled into space to monitor plant spores if the times and funding had allowed.

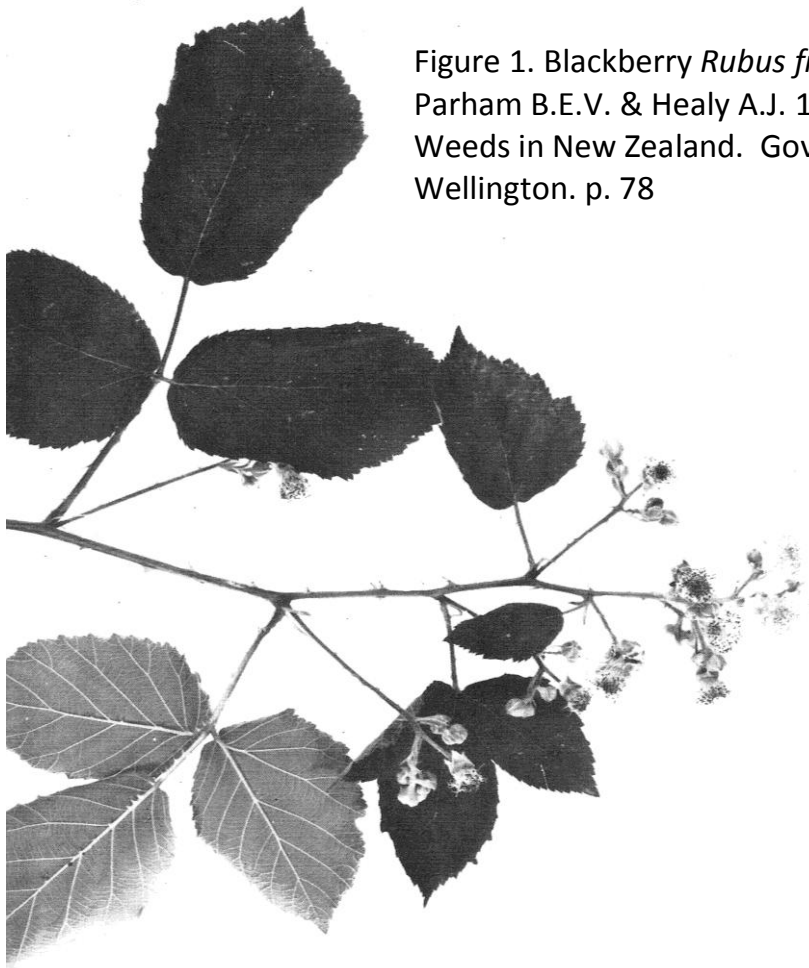


Figure 1. Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* agg.
Parham B.E.V. & Healy A.J. 1981. Common
Weeds in New Zealand. Govt Printer,
Wellington. p. 78