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This journal is published twice a year by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Inc. Volume 11(1) is of special interest to members of the Canterbury Botanical Society. The first article is the 2007 BANKS Memorial lecture by Peter Heenan of Landcare Research entitled "Discovery and description of the New Zealand flora: a contemporary perspective" Some examples of recent taxonomic research are included, plus aspects of conservation biogeography and the role of DNA data.

Olearia adenocarpa (Figure 1, p 67) was first recognized as distinct in August 2002. (Heenan and Molloy 2004 *NZ Journal of Botany* 42:21-36). This small leaved member of the Asteraceae is known only from Great Island in the Rakaia River and on the Waimakariri River flood plain. More than 600 plants are now known but most have been severely browsed by domestic stock and hares and rabbits. It is now listed as Nationally Critical in a conservation assessment. Once the breeding systems were resolved it was then possible to begin conservation measures. Two areas about 36 hectares in total including about 250 plants were fenced. Their recovery has been great. New shoots have emerged and the plants are now flowering and fruiting regularly. In August 2004 and July 2005 one year-old nursery raised plants were planted in the area by members of Canterbury Botanical Society. It will be of interest to note progress of the plants in the future.

The role of DNA data has been outlined in an article on several indigenous members of the Brassicaceae. This has resulted in a number of name changes especially with respect to *Cheesemanina* and *Pachycladon*.

Taxonomic research in NZ has come a long way since the early botanists used plant characters to identify species, but there are now many new tools as well as new ways of blending new taxonomic information into a wider context.

The Editors of this Journal are Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy, with a website as follows: www.rnzih.org.nz

Further information about the Journal can be obtained by writing to the RNZIH, PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Other articles in this volume are: DNA sequencing and analysis: How it's done; The second Linnean revolution; Dragons in the mist, on *Dracophyllum* research; The NZ Flora, recent evidence shows the flora to be much more recent than previously thought; Unravelling the fibres of *Harakeke* evolution; and there are four book reviews: Plant names, a guide to botanical nomenclature; Flowering Plant families of the world; Natural history of Rangitoto Island; Wild orchids of the lower North Island, field guide 2007 (published by DOC, Wellington, 194 pages, NZ\$20.00)



Figure 1. *Olearia adenocarpa* in situ. Insert shows a close up view of the interlacing branchlets. Photo: P. Heenan with insert by T. Blogg