

Arthur's Pass Field Trip January 2012 – an additional note

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Fig. 1. *Olearia arborescens*. All photos: C. Major, 4 Jan 2012.



Fig. 2. *Notogrammitis givenii* on river boulder.



Fig. 3. Open wetland above the Bealey River.

This summary should have been included in the Arthur's Pass trip report written up in the last *ABS Journal* (Preston Jones 2012). The Bealey Valley area was explored on Day Three, after the Dobson Nature Walk.

Bealey Valley

The Bealey Valley Track starts in common with the Dobson Nature Trail then branches towards the Bealey Valley and Bealey River chasm.

Starting with the Dobson Nature Trail the walk passed through moss-laden mountain beech (*Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortoides*) with similar flora to the Dobson Nature Trail. The canopy opened as we approached the river and we encountered *Olearia avicenniifolia*, *O. arborescens* (Fig. 1) and *Brachyglottis rotundifolia* growing together. Growing on a mossy bank was a developing *Gastrodia* with a strong speckled stem.

At the river on an enormous lichen- and moss-covered boulder the following were found: green glistening mats of *Celmisia bellidioides*, a stray tuft of *Leucogenes grandiceps* and a tiny *Notogrammitis givenii* (Fig. 2) interwoven with a desiccated filmy fern. On the boulder edge was a single *Geum cockaynei* with its bright fan-pleated leaves. Up on the grassy edge was the sprawling, sparsely leaved *Coprosma brunnea* and *Anisotome pilifera* with its stiff divided leaves in contrast with the nearby seeding *Gingidia montana*.

Climbing up from the river the steep track led to an open wetland (Fig. 3) dominated by red tussock *Chionochloa rubra* subsp. *occulta*, *Lepidothamnus laxifolius* and *Donatia novae-zelandiae*. Scattered amongst were *Pentachondra pumila*, *Drosera arcturi*, *D. spatulata*, *Celmisia incana* agg. (*C. discolor*), *C. glandulosa* var. *glandulosa*, *C. alpina* and *Oreobolus pectinatus*. At the bushline stood a *Halocarpus biformis*, with its single trunk sporting both the juvenile and adult foliage.

Reference

Preston Jones, H. (ed.). 2012: South Island trip to Arthur's Pass, 1-10 January 2012. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 67: 109-117.