

Wilson's, they may arguably be more life-like. Characteristic features, such as flowers, fruits, and ligules are often detailed. Given also a list of references, a comprehensive illustrated glossary and an index of families, scientific and common names, this book worthily demands a place in every field-naturalist's ruck-sack.

N.Z. Ferns and Allied Plants

by Patrick J. Brownsey and John C. Smith-Dodsworth.
Publ: David Bateman Ltd, Auckland, \$89.95.

Reviewed by Peter Bannister.

The New Zealand flora is particularly rich in ferns and allied plants, and this book describes all the species, whether native or introduced, found in New Zealand. This is an achievement in itself, but when the descriptions are accompanied by numerous relevant drawings, illustrations and photographs it becomes something of a triumph!

The book introduces the basic life cycle of ferns and club mosses and then describes ferns in greater detail, with respect to both vegetative and reproductive structures. Sections on the classification, identification, collection and cultivation of ferns, fern societies and botanical societies (yes, this one is mentioned! [but they got its name wrong. Editor]) complete this introductory part and give the lay person a clear insight into the subject and suggestions for further reading.

The main section of the book has keys to genera, which worked well when I tried them, and keys to the species of larger genera. Species descriptions are concise and informative, and almost every species is illustrated, by drawings or photographs. A scale is given for drawings but not for photographs, and I found the use of non-standard "cms" and "mms" where the scale is subdivided mildly irritating (numbers at the top and

bottom of each scale would have obviated the need for the spurious plural). The taxonomy is up to date, although here I must ride another hobbyhorse as informal names are used for species that have not been formally described, yet we have good descriptions of each species and their distribution in English. Had they been in Latin we might have had some names to use. As it is, *Blechnum* "black spot" becomes *Blechnum* sp. 1 and *Blechnum* "mountain" becomes *Blechnum* sp. 2. This is a scholarly as well as a popular book - the authors of the new Australian flora did not hesitate to use a bit of Latin and erect new species as they went along. However, I realise that it is not as simple as that and I would not want these niggling criticisms to put anyone off this excellent book.

The book concludes with a glossary, bibliography, maps of localities and an index. This is typical, the book is complete in all respects, and everything one might expect to be there is there. I am impressed and shall obtain my copy as soon as possible - my only regret is that I did not avail myself of the pre-publication offer in a previous B.S.O. Newsletter!

Natives/Conservation Symposium

Tauranga, 1990 August 1-2. Speakers include such eminent botanists as Warwick Harris. To include scientific, ethnic, commercial, garden and conservation aspects. Further details: Bastow Wilson, Botany Dept., Otago Univ., or Charmain Brown, 90's Natives, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, Tauranga.

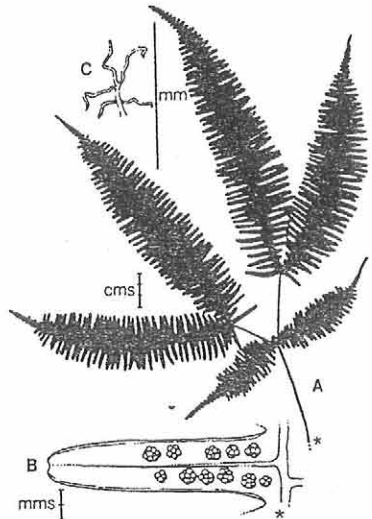


Fig. 55 *Dicranopteris linearis*. A portion of a frond with pinnae on ultimate rachis branches only; B pinna with notched apex, and sori of 6-10 unprotected sporangia; C irregularly branched hair from the rachis.