

## BOTANICAL NOTES



### *Coprosma pedicillata* synonyms

By Allison Knight

This small-leaved *Coprosma* has been formally described relatively recently. For those who found the taxonomic history of the new name as tortuous as I did, here are a few snippets to ponder.

In the NZ Bot. Soc. Newsletter, p13, Dec 2000, Ewen Cameron reports: “*Coprosma pedicillata* (Rubiaceae), a new species from New Zealand” by BPJ Molloy, PJ de Lange & BD Clarkson, **NZ J Bot. 37: 383–397 (1999)**. An erect shrub or small tree similar to *C. parviflora* var *dumosa* sensu Cheeseman (= *C. “taylorae”*), but with violet drupes, from eastern NZ (Gisborne to Southland).

It helps to know *C. pedicillata* has violet fruit. This distinguishes it from the rather similar *C. parviflora* var *dumosa* sensu Cheeseman (= *C. “taylorae”*), which has white fruit, sometimes with a touch of pink according to Ewen (and occasionally yellow fruit and very occasionally dark purple fruit, according to Adrienne Markey).

Perhaps more usefully for the field botanist, who is familiar with the Druce tag names, Shannel Courtney, in his 10<sup>th</sup> revision of “A checklist of indigenous vascular plants of NZ”, has this entry beside *Coprosma pedicillata*: = “*Coprosma violacea*” = *Coprosma* sp (v) of A Eagle, = *Coprosma* aff. *parviflora* of H Wilson.

Which just goes to show how confusing it can become if botanists keep on referring to new species using “tag” names, without publishing formal descriptions.

### Notes from the Otago Herbarium

By Janice Lord



OTA is thriving! Jennifer Bannister and Allison Knight are keeping busy curating the lichen collections, and Ann Wylie has joined the “Friends of OTA” team, working on the bryophyte collections. John Steel is looking after the ferns. I have been whittling away the pile of vascular specimens to be filed, and also gradually adding angiosperm specimens to the Lotus Approach database. We have purchased a mapping program, “VisualMap” by Simon Morris, which converts lat-longs or map references into a dot map. Unfortunately the program is not compatible with the operating system on the Herbarium Computer, but will be on the Botany Department Server shortly.

In the period 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1999 to 30th November 2000, OTA accessioned 3012 specimens: 258 Angiosperms, 14 Pteridophytes, 1906 bryophytes, 36 algae, and 773 lichens. This brings the total collection size to approximately 30,000 vascular specimens and more than 20,000 nonvascular specimens. We loaned 134 specimens to other institutions, and