

Notes from the Otago Herbarium (OTA)

By Jennifer Bannister, Honorary Curator – April 2001

After much hard work, the reorganisation of the bryophyte collection is complete. Packets have been removed from sheets, checked for accession numbers, repacketed where necessary and names updated using recent moss and liverwort checklists. Some names remain a mystery! A large number of bryophytes collected by Ray Tangney have also been incorporated into the collection. I would like to thank Ann Wylie for all her hard work and expertise - a friend of OTA indeed!

The next group to receive a name update will be the ferns. John Steel is going to update the fern collection when the new fern book by Patrick Brownsey is available.

Wenita Forest Products have donated the Forest Service collection of flowering plants and ferns to the herbarium and these will be accessioned and incorporated into the herbarium collections.

NEWS

Tree New to Science found in Waima Forest - *from NZ Herald, 2.3.01*

The bleak, windswept forest of the Waima Range in Northland has revealed another of its secrets – a mysterious tree never before discovered. The tree is 8m tall and was found with about 100 juveniles growing nearby. It belongs to the family Cunoniaceae, which includes the makamaka, towai and kamahi, and has probably been here since the giant land mass of Gondwana first began breaking up about 300 million years ago.

The new tree differs from its closest relatives by having larger leaves, different stipules (the leafy appendage formed at the junction of the leaf and stem) and leaf hairs. Dr Rhys Gardner and DoC rare plant expert Peter de Lange will describe the new tree, (*which was drawn in Dunedin by Audrey Eagle –ed.*). They will submit their findings to an international scientific journal and the naming process will probably take about a year. The last new tree discovered in New Zealand was Bartlett's rata, *Metrosideros bartlettii*, in the 1970's.