

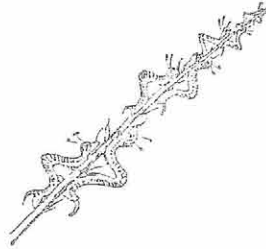
## Apology – Gremlins in the computer .....

My apologies to Bruce Clarkson for inadvertently losing the last 3 lines of his letter on supernatural beings in forest, which was published on page 5 of Newsletter 27. They mysteriously disappeared during the cutting and pasting and have now been reinstated, in script, as the last 3 lines in the previous letter. The omission was entirely accidental, and I am sorry to have spoiled such a good ending.

*Allison Knight*, editor

Fig. *Nasticreechia krorkluppia*

From Edward Lear's *Nonsense Botany*.



## Goblin Forests - Reply

There are three possibilities as to the status of the term 'Goblin forest'.

1. 'Goblin forest' may be a place name. It seemed likely from Cockayne (1928) that this was the case, and Dr Clarkson has kindly confirmed this with his report that 'Goblin forest' is "local Taranaki usage".
2. 'Goblin forest' may be synonymous with 'elfin woodland', and, since the latter is long and internationally established (Schimper 1903; Allaby 1994; Lincoln *et al.* 1982), 'goblin forest' would then be an error. Dawson (1988), whom Dr Clarkson has quoted approvingly more than once, shews this is the case by stating that 'goblin forest' and 'elfin woodland' are synonymous. ['Elfin woodland' and 'elfin forest' are also synonymous: Allaby 1994; Lincoln *et al.* 1982].
3. 'Goblin forest' may be a forest type found only in New Zealand, distinct from 'elfin woodland'. However, Dawson's (1988) statement above shews this is not true.

It is clear that 'Goblin forest' is a place name ('1' above), and that it would be erroneous to use it as a forest type since it would be at best a later synonym for 'elfin woodland' ('2' and '3). I have pointed this out all along, but I must admit that when I wrote my original article, *Supernatural beings in forests*, I had not realized that the error was so widespread. Surely that is all the more reason to correct it. Ecology as a whole suffers from loose use of terms, and perhaps New Zealand ecology more than most, so such dogs cannot be allowed to lie under the table. [References as in my original paper, BSO Newsletter 26, pp 6-8]

*J. Bastow Wilson*, Botany Department, University of Otago.