

Schuster examines those genera occurring in the present landmasses that once formed Gondwana, *i.e.* South America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, India and Antarctica. There are approximately one hundred and fifty genera with six hundred species of liverwort and hornwort in New Zealand (Glenny, 1998) and this volume covers twenty-nine of these genera. It begins with a brief explanation of the hepatic classification used and is followed by the keys, which fill the remainder of the book. Most species are illustrated, and these illustrations are superb in their detail. (See this issue's Plant Profile.) A representative example from each genus is illustrated allowing comparison and highlighting those interesting features which may aid clarification of those taxa not shown.

This volume brings together and updates what is known about this, oft ignored, part of our extensive, and elusive, cryptogamic flora. Extensive references are cited but there is no reference list which, I assume, will be included in the final volume. When I spoke to Dr. Schuster on his last visit to Dunedin in 1996, he expressed doubt that his flora would ever be completed. Looking at this remarkable product from a lifetime's work, it would be sad indeed were this to prove so. At first sight, this volume may appear expensive, but when one considers the quality and sheer volume of the information contained, it has to be well worth the money. It can be obtained direct from the publishers by e-mail to [lubrecht@frontiernet.net](mailto:lubrecht@frontiernet.net) who will advise details of payment, including credit card.

**Reference:** Glenny, D. (1998). A revised checklist of New Zealand liverworts and hornworts. *Tuhinga* 10:119-149.

**Dawson, J.; Lucas, R. (2000). *Nature guide to the New Zealand forest.***

312 pp. Soft covered. Random House New Zealand, Auckland. \$44.95.

This is an excellent, general introduction to New Zealand forests. It opens with a brief discussion of the flora and fauna to be found there and is followed by six chapters, colour-coded for easy access. The first, and largest, deals with the trees and shrubs and begins with several pages of colour photographs for identifying them by their leaves. These are very clear and the best I've seen for New Zealand plants, though for me, I find the occasional mixing of scientific and common names somewhat irksome. Then follows descriptions of the individual species, each accompanied by good quality photographs. Many of these show complete plants and are too small to be effective, the close-ups, however, are excellent in their detail. Similar chapters follow; firstly, vines, epiphytes and mistletoes and secondly, the forest floor. This latter is less comprehensive, understandably, but includes examples of the many varieties of species of vascular plants, fungi and a few mosses, liverworts and lichens. The final three chapters cover the birds, the lizards, frogs and bats, and the insects and other invertebrates, respectively. The first two are comprehensive, the last one, not unexpectedly, less so, covering a few of the more common species.

This is a follow-on from their 1993 (Dawson, J.; Lucas, R. 1993) volume and has many of the excellent photographs used there. The smaller photographs in this volume, however, do less justice to Lucas's work when compared to the larger copies in the earlier book. This is a very practical guide and will be a boon to naturalists of any bent, though I can't see the small, habit photographs of complete trees being very helpful. The small brickbats aside, it will be a worthwhile purchase for those wanting to make their bush experiences more rewarding.

**Reference:** Dawson, J.; Lucas, R. (1993). *Lifestyles of New Zealand forest plants*. Victoria University Press, Wellington.

**Lumbsch, H.T.; McCarthy, P.M.; Malcolm, W.M. (2001): *Key to the genera of Australian lichens : apothecial crusts.***

64 pp. Softcover. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. \$A31.

The white, yellow, brown or black coloured patches that cover the rocks, tree bark and other apparently bare surfaces are familiar, I'm sure, to all of us but few will take the time to look at them in detail. These are the crustose lichens and a glance through this book may just encourage closer inspection and a realisation of the beauty and intricate structures of this fascinating part of our flora.

Although specifically for Australia, there are many genera and species of these lichens common to both countries and so this little book is highly relevant to our own flora. It fits well with the *New Zealand lichens. Checklist, key and glossary* (Malcolm, W.M.; Galloway, D.J. 1997). The key appears comprehensive and can be followed using Malcolm and Galloway's glossary. It is well laid out and easy to use. Each page has three excellent colour photographs of species representative of the genera covered and at least eighty New Zealand examples are shown.

This will be a handy little reference for us here and can be obtained by contacting Patrick McCarthy by e-mail at [Patrick.McCarthy@ea.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.McCarthy@ea.gov.au)

**Reference:** Malcolm, W.M.; Galloway, D.J. (1997), *New Zealand lichens. Checklist, key and glossary*, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

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