

which, *B. lunaria*, is shared with Canada. This is a rare species in New Zealand with only three records (Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 2000) and should not be collected if found. It also occurs in Tasmania, South America and across the Northern Hemisphere.

It is a small plant, about ten cm. tall, with a single frond dividing into two parts, the green, sterile trophophore (the 'leaf' bit) and the fertile sporophore bearing the reddish-brown sporangia.

This little book gives a good summary of the history, classification, life history and Canadian conservation efforts for this intriguing plant group. A key for the Canadian plants is included followed by silhouettes of the seventeen species described and an excellent bibliography. The book concludes with colour photographs of each species in the wild. For the curious, it will provide an interesting addition to the library regardless of its limited value to the New Zealand flora. From a practical standpoint, *B. Lunaria* has the useful facility of making one invisible – bin Laden hunters take note!

It is obtainable direct from the author, Patrick Williston, P.O. Box 4979, Smithers, BC, V0J 2N0, Canada. He will accept New Zealand cheques for \$NZ39 inc. For further information he can be contacted by e-mail at: pwilliston@bulkley.net

Reference: Brownsey, P.J.; Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. (2000). *New Zealand ferns and allied plants*, rev. ed. David Bateman, Auckland.

BSO Members Discount: Many botanical books, including those published by CSIRO, Australia, are available from Manaaki Whenua Press, at 20% off, to BSO Members. This includes post and packing. If you are a member of BSO, say so when you order.

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Website Reviews – by Allison Knight

Database of N Z plant names: <http://nzflora.landcare.cri.nz/plantnames/>

I'm kicking myself for taking so long to discover this exceedingly useful online database of current names for wild plants in New Zealand, and very grateful to Bastow for showing me how to use it. The names are those currently in use at CHR, the newly-re-named Allan Herbarium at Lincoln, and include not only vascular plants, but mosses, liverworts and lichens as well. Last update was on 30 august 2001.

Type in a genus name and all the taxa in that genus will come up. Type in part of a name, and all the names containing that phrase will come up. Click on a specific name and the full family classification and authorship will come up. Very handy for checking species lists, articles, trip reports and newsletters, especially when you can cut and paste from article to database and back. *Newsletter contributors please take note!*

The planned addition of synonyms, common names, plant descriptions, distributions and illustrations will make this database even more useful. Well worth using –try it!

New Zealand Fungi: <http://www.nzfungi.landcare.cri.nz/>

Whether your interest is pathology, systematics, ecology or conservation these mycology web pages provide a wealth of information on fungi in New Zealand. It is possible to search for fungi by name, to see which specimens are held in the NZ fungal herbarium, PDD and also to search the literature for articles on specified mycology topics. The graphics are not well supported by Netscape 4, but don't let this put you off.

NEWS

BSO Prize winners, Botany Colloquium, 6 Nov, 2001

The Botanical Society of Otago was pleased to donate three prizes to the annual Otago University Botany Dept Colloquium, which was ably organised by students Katja Schweikert and Kath Dixon. Congratulations not only to the prize-winners, but to all the participants who presented talks and posters on a wide range of botanical topics, and to the guest speakers, Profs Helen Leach and Blair Fitzharris, who gave a fresh botanical spin to their respective expertise in Anthropology and climate change. Prizes Awarded by BSO were:

Best Student Talk – Deane Harder

Wave goodbye to the bullkelp! – doing biomechanics in a wave-swept environment.

Abstract: For an analysis of the biomechanics of the bull kelp (*Durvillaea*), it is necessary to study its structure on several levels. Taking further into account the overall morphology, the seaweed's reactions to external forces can be correlated to the magnitude of these forces. The ultimate aim is to develop a computer model that simulates the behaviour of the kelp stipe in order to see how well the analysis mirrors the actual seaweed. Part of the analysis is looking at the waves and concurrent tensional forces with a method called 'wavelets'. In the long run, it might be possible with this method to predict the magnitude of waves that exceed the maximum allowable load and dislodge the kelp from the rocky substratum.

Runner-up Talk – Anne-Maree Oliver and David Orlovich

Silent witness: The case of the fruit (body) found in New Zealand, now in a morgue in Sweden and tagged as *Gymnopilus rubrocastaneus*, is re-opened!

Best Poster –Lynda McCann

Ever seen one of these? The endangered wood rose, *Dactylanthus taylorii*.