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| <p>HARI HARI ctd. Totara River (Ross) - bog pine forest Upper Wanganui River Wanganui - Poerua Walkway Wanganui Valley - track to 1st bridge Westland National Park - NZJB13:497 Wilberg Range - Wanganui river</p> <p>PAPAROAS Charleston Beach (Cemetery) Fox River - Paparoas Nile River Mouth Pancake Rocks - Punakaeki Seal Point - Punakaeki Truman Track - Punakaeki</p> <p>SOUTH WESTLAND Cascade valley flats Lake Gault from bush edge Lake Matheson Track</p> | <p>LEWIS – REEFTON ctd. Kirwan's Hill - tops from hut Kirwan's Hill - track from Cronadin Klondike Spur track Klondike Tarns, Rahu Mt Haast Mt Raoulia - Paparoas Mueller Tarn track- Lewis Pass Rahu River Right Branch Rough Creek -Lewis Pass</p> <p>MID WESTLAND Mt French - Hohonu Ra Mt Greenland - from Ross to summit</p> <p>WESTPORT Cape Foulwind =F290 Estuary Westport - Karamea side Mt Flemming Nile River Westport Terrace forest near estuary</p> |
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Graeme is happy to make these lists of vascular plant species available to Botanical Society members (see Newsletter 30). Also, he is very keen to add to his database, so if you have species lists from any Otago, Southland or West Coast areas not listed here nor in the last newsletter please forward them to him at GTJane@clear.net.nz – ed.

Pronunciation of Botanical Latin – John Steel

“Latin is a dead language”; “Latin words are too difficult to say”; “What does it matter, how it’s said?”. I’m sure we’ve all heard phrases to this effect over the years and recently I was asked to ‘rule’ on pronunciation for some Botanical Latin words. Firstly, I’ll deal with the three comments above. Latin is definitely not a dead language. Anyone reading this uses Latin everyday of their lives. Just as English has changed almost beyond recognition (to the uninitiated at least) over the years, so too has Latin, but neither has gone away. Latin words are remarkably simple to say; a simple rule of thumb is to pronounce every vowel, and you’ll be well on your way. Does pronunciation matter? Of course it does! Otherwise one would not be understood. But this is where it becomes tricky! Latin is no different from any other language in that pronunciation differs from place to place and between one social group and another. The question really is, “Is there a universal pronunciation?”. The answer is, “Yes”. Whether we choose to use this instead of, or as well as, local pronunciation, becomes a matter of situation and/or preference.

Four forms of pronunciation concern us:

- i) Traditional English Latin, using English pronunciation for Latin words.
- ii) Classical (or Reformed) Latin, as used by classical scholars as the closest they have come to agreeing on what the ancient Romans used. This is the convention generally used in Continental Europe, if not internationally.
- iii) Church Latin, based on modern Italian pronunciation.
- iv) Non-English Latin, using the pronunciation of other languages transferred to Latin words.

The following guide to pronouncing Classical Latin is adapted from Stearn, 4th. Ed. (1992):

| | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Long ā | as in fā te, never as in fāther | short ǎ | as in ǎ part, never as in fāt |
| Long ē | as in thēy, never as in me | short ĕ | as in pĕt |
| Long ī | as in machīne, never as in mīce | short ĭ | as in pĭt |
| Long ō | as in nōte | short ŏ | as in nŏt |
| Long ū | as in brūte | short ŭ | as in fŭll, never as in tŭb |
| Long y | as French <i>pur</i> , never as in cypher | short y | as French <i>du</i> , never as cynic |

The consonants, b, d, f, h, j, l, m, n, p, qu and z are pronounced as in English.

c always hard as in **cat**

r always rolled

t always hard as in **na**tive

v always w as in **w**e, never as in van

g always hard as in **go**

s always soft as in **s**it

ti within a word as in **na**tion

ae as in **a**isle, never as ea in meat

ch as **k** (or better k-h), never as in church

ng as in **f**inger, never as in singer

ph as **p** (or better p-h), never as f

au as in **h**ouse, never as aw in bawl

ei as in **r**ein, never as in height

oi as in **b**oil, never as ee in bee

ui as French *oui*, never as in ruin

Got all that? Then all you have to worry about now is stress. In words of two syllables the stress is always on the former. In longer examples the stressed syllable is in bold, followed by the ´ symbol. In words of more than two syllables, the stress falls on the last but one if the vowel is long (e.g. *for-**mō**'-sus*), or when two consonants separate the last two vowels (e.g. *cru-**ĕn**'-tus*), but falls on the last syllable but two when the last but one is short (e.g. *flō'-ri-dus*, *la-ti-fō'-li-us*). *N.B.* therefore, *Pit-tōs'-po-rum* and *Pa-rūt'-ro-phis* with their emphases on the antepenultimate syllables, but *Met-ro-si-dē'-ros* where the emphasis is on the penultimate syllable!

Easy, eh? Not surprisingly, there are a few exceptions. The most common one is in the use of personal names. A considerable percentage of botanical names comes from languages other than Latin and Greek and a simple, consistent method of Latin pronunciation for them has yet to be devised so the trend is to leave them in their original language. Even this does not always work as many names are transliterated

into other languages making them mutually difficult to understand, e.g. *Fuchsia* – in English, *fyoosha*, but in German, *fukseea*.

So now what? I suppose there are several choices:

- i) since the scientific names are part of an international language, one can make the effort to know and understand the Reformed Academic Latin and use it when appropriate;
- ii) one can become precious and pedantic and insist on the ‘correct’ usage at all times;
- iii) one can carry on with local pronunciation since most of those around will understand so why bother with anything else.

This article stems from an enquiry from Mark Clark, DoC Otago Conservancy, sent to Bastow who, aware of my interest in Latin, passed it on to me. As for the particular examples I was asked to clear up, here are my guesses. I am not, by any stretch of the imagination, a Latin scholar so will happily be corrected by anyone with more knowledge of the subject. For some of the following the pronunciation of the first syllable may depend on the language of origin of the name.

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| <i>Arecaceae</i> | Ā-ray-kǎ-kē'-eye | <i>Arecoideae</i> | Ā-ray-kō-ī-dē'-eye |
| <i>Cocoeae</i> | Kō-kō-ē'-eye | <i>-inae</i> | '-īn-eye |
| <i>Jubaea</i> | Jū-bye'-ā | <i>markii</i> | mār'-kī-ī |
| <i>-idae</i> | '-ī-dye | <i>Butiinae</i> | Bū-tī-ī'-nye |

Bastow also passed on Mark’s query to Peter Johnson who mooted some pronunciations for other words and I add my ideas on them.

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| <i>Campanulaceae</i> | Kām-pā-nū-lā-kē'-eye | <i>Ericaceae</i> | Ē-rī-kǎ-kē'-eye |
| <i>Cordyline</i> | Kōr-doo-lī'-nē (oo because I don’t know how to macronate a y!!) | | |
| <i>Nerine</i> | Nē-rī'-nē | <i>Nothofagus</i> | Nō-t(h)ō-fā'-gūs |
| <i>Schizaea</i> | Skī-zae'-ā | <i>cita</i> | kī'-tā (keeta) |
| <i>Schinus</i> | Skī'-nūs (skeenus) | <i>Schoenus</i> | Skoe'-nūs (skoimus) |

There is a plentiful list of references for the pronunciation of classical Latin but the two I would suggest as a starting point are:

- Stearn, W.T. (1992) *Botanical Latin : history, grammar, syntax, terminology and vocabulary*, 4th edn. David & Charles, Newton Abbot.
- Wall, A.; Allan, H.H. (1950) *The botanical names of the flora of New Zealand, their origin, history and meaning, with hints on pronunciation*. Whitcombe and Tombs, Christchurch.

Latin is our language and has served us faithfully for more than two thousand years, highlighting our rich and ancient heritage, so maybe it’s time it was accorded at least some of the respect it deserves, especially by those of botanical bent who use (abuse?) it on a regular basis. The phrase I would prefer to go with would be, “A little Latin goes a long way”