

Fig. Leaves of *Bomarea caldasii* (photocopy) compared with *Parsonsia heterophylla*  
(From Poole & Adams, *Trees and Shrubs of N.Z.*)



PARSONSIA HETEROPHYLLA  
N.M. ADAMS

**Reports and plant lists.**

**'Why weeds : Prioritising weeds for control and surveillance in Otago'**  
Presentation by Peter Raal (Department of Conservation) 19 June 2002

Peter began by outlining the various types of weeds, narrowing his talk to those invasive species that are a threat to species and ecosystems. About 250 fall into this

category and 121 of these are recorded in Otago, with 51 considered to present a serious threat. He went on to explain the reasons why DOC controls weeds before discussing the various strategies available to help achieve this. Most important was the 'Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Weeds', a national document that introduces the important distinction between site-led and weed-led control programmes. Peter then outlined the process in determining an Otago strategy which involved a step-wise approach beginning with weed inventory and ending in operational plans. Along the way were important components of advocacy, liaison and co-operation with other organisations. The main control options (mechanical, chemical and biological) were also covered. Peter then explained the concept of weed surveillance which basically means finding new incursions soon after they arrive and eradicating them before they have time to get well established and potentially cost much more to control. This is not something DOC can do on its own and the important role that groups like the Botanical Society of Otago can play was emphasised. Finally we saw slides of a range of weeds of concern in Otago before Peter answered many probing questions from the audience. Thanks Peter for a very stimulating presentation on a subject that was clearly of considerable interest and relevance to this Society.

*John Barkla, Department of Conservation, Otago Conservancy*

## **Weed Sighting Forms**

**Have you.....**

**Been out in the field?**

**Seen exotic weeds that deserve to be reported - marram grass, passionfruit, elderberry, heiracium, old man's beard and others on the following lists??????**

**Peter Raal has given us weed reporting forms. They are in the herbarium at the Botany Department, University of Otago. They're in an appropriately labelled box situated on the bookshelf above the computer.**

**They are waterproof and notebook-sized !!**

**Feel free to grab some forms before/after a fieldtrip. A herbarium voucher is also worthwhile.**

**Post forms to D.o.C Otago Weed Control Officer, Box 5244, Dunedin when done.**

**Happy collecting !!**

*Adrienne Markey*

## **Known invasive weeds occurring within the Otago Conservancy**

Invasive weeds present in the Otago Conservancy were identified from discussions with DOC conservancy staff, internal reports, published literature and communications with botanists. The species are divided into weeds posing a serious or moderate threat to indigenous ecosystems or biodiversity conservation.

Many of the species on these two lists are included in weed-led and site-led control programmes and/or are recommended for monitoring. Where there are known infestations of these plants outside land administered by DOC, advocacy actions are recommended.