

**Streimann, H. (2001) *The mosses of Norfolk Island.***

178 pp. Softcover. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. \$A48.

Another in the Flora of Australia series, this volume is confined to Norfolk, Philip and Nepean Islands and is of interest to us in New Zealand because of Norfolk Island's position, approximately equidistant from Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. The moss flora comprises 69 species, only two of which are endemic, and all but seven are shared with Australia. This compares with 46 and 20 shared with New Zealand and New Caledonia, respectively.

There is a brief description of the history of the mosses of Norfolk Island and their distribution, before a key to species. Each one is comprehensively described with notes on its local and worldwide distribution and accompanied by fine line drawings and a local distribution map. I found this easy to use and up to the high standard to be expected from this series and will be useful to use with our shared species. Comparison of our native flora with that of Australia has long been a source of discussion and this volume will provide additional fuel for the dispersal debate.

*John Steel*

**Kantvilas, G.; Elix, J.A.; Jarman, S.J. (2002) *Tasmanian lichens: identification, distribution and conservation status I. Parmeliaceae***

274 pp. Softcover. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra.

And another! This time an item indispensable for those interested in New Zealand lichens. The Parmeliaceae is a large and complex family represented in Tasmania by 148 species in 21 genera. Of these, only seven are endemic. It is also well-represented here in New Zealand, where much work needs to be done, and with which many species are shared. This volume has already brought great sighs of relief from Jennifer and Allison in our herbarium as it has enabled them to put names to unidentified specimens awaiting a home. The format is the same as others in the series. A brief introduction is followed by a key to genera. Then comprehensive descriptions of the genera with keys to the species include distribution maps and details of their ecology, chemical composition and authorship.

Many of the descriptions are accompanied by black and white photographs and the book could have been improved by the use of colour photographs which may have made it more accessible for those less knowledgeable in the field. This is really a reference for those pursuing an interest in lichens rather than the beginner who could struggle until they have a better feel for this, often difficult, group.

*John Steel*

Fig. from above. *Cetraria islandica* ssp. *antarctica* and *Cetraria aculeata*, two lichens in the Parmeliaceae. Both were seen on the Bryophyte Workshop in alpine cushion fields on the Pisa Range.

