

members of the general public on the other hand is often ignored. This is the main channel through which the majority of the population receives its science information and often involves inaccurate science that can give people the wrong idea about how science is done. The antidote to this inaccurate science is to become involved in communicating good science directly to the public.

## **Making reductionist ecology useful: Examples from beech forest.**

**Dave Kelly**

In the past much ecology has been single-species (autecology) or community based. The former is too narrow and the latter so broad it never tells you anything useful. A challenge is to do meso-scale ecology where we understand species interactions well enough to predict the behaviour of ecological systems (or model them). I present three examples from recent work in *Nothofagus* communities; looking at tree- scale insect interactions over honeydew production, at how climate change alterations to beech masting will affect birds, and at how predators affect bird-plant pollination mutualisms

## **Report**

### **WBS Summer trip, Bay of Plenty 2–12 Jan 2003. – Allison Knight**

A keen Otago contingent of Audrey Eagle, Moira Parker, Neill & Barbara Simpson, and John & Allison Knight joined the Wellington Botanical Society's trip in the Bay of Plenty this summer. There Graeme Jane and Gael Donaghy of Tauranga had prepared a wonderful array of trips for us, complete with the latest species lists and maps to aid our explorations of the many and diverse plant communities in the area. They led us from the mangrove, *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*, swamps of the coastal estuaries through dense tawa, *Beilschmiedia tawa*, stands to the goblin fog forests of the Kaimais, from the spectacular red-flowering coastal pohutukawa, *Metrosideros excelsa*, forests to the regenerating kauri, *Agathis australis*, forest of Mt Te Aroha; from the special ferns and prostrate kanuka adapted to the hot soils of Waimangu thermal area to the towering remnant podocarp forests of Whirinaki. Always there was much to see and marvel at – (even a hidden patch of marijuana, *Cannabis sativa*). The Tawari, *Ixerba brexioides*, in full flower, was just as fragrant and magnificent as Geoff Baylis had said it would be.

Many thanks to Graeme and Gael for hosting such an excellent trip, to Joyce Wilson for keeping the home base ship-shape and well fed and to Barbara Clark for her quiet background organisation. It was another fascinating, fun, full-on ten days of total immersion botany and I would recommend a summer Bot. Soc. trip to anyone, at any level, who would like to get more familiar with our native plants.