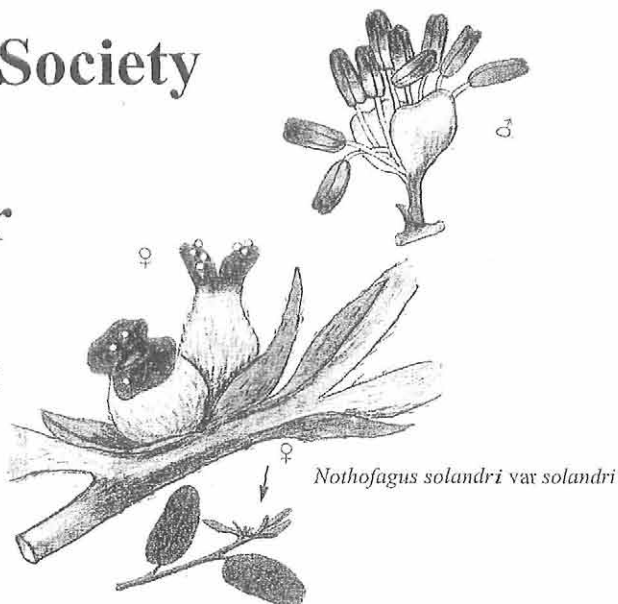


Botanical Society of Otago Newsletter

Number 38
July – August
2003

BSO Meetings
and Field Trips



23 July, Wed. 5.30 pm. Talk by **Dr Ted Nye**, Otago Scandinavian Club, on **“Solander, the first professional botanist to visit New Zealand”**. Solander (1733-1782) was a pupil of Carl Linnaeus in Sweden. He went to Britain to promote Linnaeus’s classification of living things. He was recruited by Banks to be one of the Scientific team on the Endeavour under Captain Cook. Thus Solander was the first professional botanist to visit New Zealand, in 1769. With the looming 300th anniversary of the birth of Linnaeus in 2007, it follows that Dunedin, which was the first city in New Zealand to have a Botanic Garden and the first to teach Botany at University level, should be the first to honour Solander by setting up a garden in his memory. Bring \$1 donation for nibbles or \$2 for wine. At the **NEW Zoology Benham Building**, 346 Gt King St, behind the Zoology car park by the Captain Cook. Use the main entrance of Benham Building to get in and go to the Benham Seminar Room, Rm 215, 2nd floor. Please be prompt, we have to hold the door open. **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE**

26 July, Sat 10 am – 4 pm, 464 Gt King St. **Lichens on twigs** workshop. With **Jennifer Bannister** and **Allison Knight**. **Bring:** lichens on twigs, (note host species and location) hand lens, and lunch. Microscopes and laboratory space generously made available by the Department of Botany, BSO will supply tea and coffee. **More details inside and on BSO website.**

9 August, Saturday. Field trip to **Orokonui Reserve**. [Rain date Sun 10 August, same times] Led by Ralph Allen, Wildland Consultants. Orokonui is the proposed site of a ‘Mainland Island’. Ralph will talk about the sanctuary concept and give some indications of where things would be and how it would function. There will also be a chance to see the tallest tree in New Zealand. **Meet** Botany Dept car

park, 464 Gt King St, 10 am to car pool (10c/km/passenger), or at DOC car park, Orokonui Reserve. 10.30 am. Bring lunch. Contact: Allison Knight, 487 8265

20 August, Wed. 5.30 pm. *Highlights of a High Country Summer - from the Lakes to the Landsborough*. Guest speaker **John Barkla** (DOC Otago) will give an illustrated talk on some of his botanical survey highlights from last summer. Come and hear about hidden delights in the Richardson Mountains and the search for elusive *Pittosporum patulum* in the jungle of the upper Landsborough. Bring \$1 donation for nibbles or \$2 for wine. At the **NEW Zoology Benham Building**, 346 Gt King St, behind the Zoology car park by the Captain Cook. Use the main entrance of Benham Building to get in and go to the Benham Seminar Room, Rm 215. 2nd floor. Please be prompt, we may have to hold the door open. NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

24 September, Wed 5.30 pm. *"An introduction to New Zealand gecko and plant associations"* Guest speaker **Mandy Tocher**. Venue etc. as above.

27 September, Saturday. Field trip to **Warrington and Seacliff**. Carol and Chuck Landis live at the old James Powell Convalescent Home in Warrington. Their large garden contains ornamental trees and an extensive variety of shrubs. Many rhododendron, including several original species, will be in bloom and a range of unusual Magnoliidae is also present. An adjoining area of "bush" contains a range of New Zealand trees, shrubs and ferns. The central part, containing about 95 species of East Otago provenance, is surrounded by a belt comprising natives including many sourced from outside the local area. Highlights include *Pennantia baylisiana*, *Alseuosmia* spp, and three *Ixerba brexioides*. The possible effects of companion plants on *Ixerba* growth are very interesting.

The Enchanted Forest at the nearby Seacliff Reserve will also be visited. It contains a variety beautiful mature trees (native and exotic) on the grounds of the old Seacliff psychiatric hospital. Many were planted by Sir Truby King 100 yrs ago. A new list of significant trees on the reserve will be provided.

Trip departs from the Botany Dept carpark at 10:00 on Saturday Sept 27. Car-pool rates 10c/km/passenger, to be paid to the driver. (Alternatively meet at Chuck and Carol's at 10:30.) Return mid- afternoon. Bring lunch; hot water will be supplied. In case of inclement weather we'll try Sunday 28, same times. Contacts: Chuck and Carol at 482-2846.

Cover pictures

Front cover. Leaves and magnified flowers of black beech, *Nothofagus solandri* var *solandri*, drawn by Audrey Eagle in *Eagle's trees and shrubs of New Zealand in colour*, Collins, 1975

Back cover Smaller scale drawing of *Nothofagus solandri* var *solandri*, black beech, leaves and flowers, as above. Fruit on membership form.

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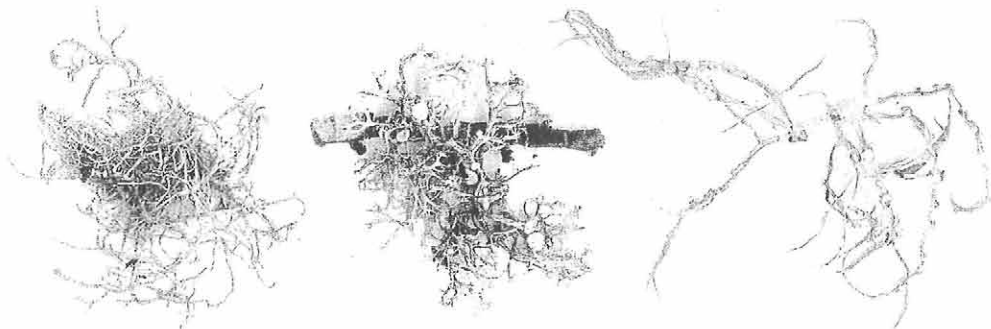
President's notes

David Orlovich

I'm writing this report on the morning of my first 100-level botany lecture for 2003. Today I'll meet for the first time about 120 first-year students, most of whom will be studying botany for the first time. It's a reality that most of these students will not end up majoring in botany: generally about half of them will major in ecology, the rest in zoology, genetics, geography and yes, a few in botany! My challenge is to get them all excited enough about botany to make them want to learn more. I will be encouraging them to take an active interest in botany - whether through digging a vegetable garden in the back yard, making a moss garden in a terrarium or joining the Botanical Society of Otago.

We've seen our society memberships rise steadily over the last few years, but we do need to keep increasing our membership if we want to have an active and vibrant society. We've got a good list of events coming up for the rest of this year so there will be plenty of opportunities to welcome new members. Next up will be Ted Nye's talk on "Solander" the first professional botanist to visit New Zealand'. Ted represents the Scandinavian Club, who are keen to create a Solander Garden in Dunedin to honour Solander's contribution to our botany, and to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Linnaeus, the father of binomial taxonomy, and teacher of Solander. If you prefer hands on botany, and would like to learn something new this month, come to the Lichens on Twigs Workshop, led by Jennifer Bannister and Allison Knight, from the OTA Herbarium. Don't forget that from now on, our talks are in the new Zoology Building (next to the Captain Cook Hotel).

On the subject of events, we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in coordinating the list of upcoming field trips and talks for the BSO. At the moment, Allison, our Newsletter Editor, is doing a lot of this work and it would be excellent to have another helper on hand to share the load. If you're interested in lending a helping hand, please let Allison know, and she can fill you in on the details. Finally, don't forget we have a **new address: P.O. Box 6214, Dunedin North**. Please direct any correspondence to this address.



Twig lichens, L to R: *Usnea* sp., *Ramalina glaucescens* and *Ramalina celastri*, indicators of clean air. On *Hoheria*, Banks Peninsula

Treasurer's Notes

Allison Knight for Frances Anderson

Wine and fancy nibbles at our evening meetings have been very enjoyable, thanks to the efforts of Robyn & Arlene, but our new treasurer says the dollars don't stack up. So at future meetings we will request a donation of \$2 towards a glass of wine, and \$1 towards nibbles, which is still very reasonable. The other thing which is not sustainable is the continued posting of newsletters to members who are in arrears with their (again very reasonable) subscription. A green stripe on your address label indicates that you are a current member, a pink stripe means you are in arrears, and the small print even tells you just how far you have paid up 'til.

Editor's notes

Allison Knight

Two of the most gratifying responses to our last newsletter were the supportive emails from two professional botanists, Allan Fife and Peter Heenan, Landcare, Lincoln. Allan explained how Mt Watkin is important as a centre of diversity for the moss genus *Grimmia*, while Peter pointed out that it is an important site for what could be a new, and increasingly vulnerable, species of the native aniseed, *Gingidia*. When you read the excerpts from their emails, you will see that they add increasing urgency to the need for a fenced reserve at Mt Watkin. We all need to consider how to expedite the formation of this long-proposed reserve. More feedback towards this aim would be appreciated. Maybe the newly formed New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, whose Global and National Targets are reproduced here, will be able to help.

Winter is a good time for curling up with a good botanical book, but book reviews have become a bit thin on the ground since our regular reviewer, John Steel left for Botswana. So if you have read a good book, please don't be shy about passing on the details. Likewise if you have come across, or created, anything else of botanical interest, do consider sharing it with the local botanical community.

Policy: The Botanical Society of Otago Newsletter aims to publish a broad range of items that will be of interest to the wider botanical community and accessible to both amateur and professional botanists. Contributions of letters, comments, trip and meeting reports, articles, plant lists, book and website reviews, news items, photographs, artwork and other images and items of botanical interest are always welcome and will be published at the editor's discretion. Articles of a scientific nature may be referred, at the editor's discretion, to a scientific editor appointed by the committee. The scientific editor may refer the material to anonymous referees. Refereed papers will be identified as such in the newsletter. *BSO will not accept papers proposing nomenclatural novelties or new combinations.*

Disclaimer. *The views published in this newsletter reflect the views of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Botanical Society of Otago. Nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Botany, University of Otago, which is supportive of, but separate from, our society.*

Notes

Proposed Mt Watkin Reserve -

(Excerpts from two emails in response to items in our last newsletter)

- centre of diversity for *Grimmia* spp

I have recently seen an item in the Otago Bot. Soc newsletter (37) about Mt. Watkin.

About six months ago I was actively working on the genus *Grimmia*, which is a large and taxonomically difficult cosmopolitan genus of epilithic mosses. At the time I was very struck by the exceptional diversity of this genus on Mt. Watkin and was hoping to get there to look at the *Grimmia* spp. I haven't yet. I can't tell you exactly how many species of *Grimmia* occur at Mt Watkin but the diversity there is exceptionally high and I certainly noted it as a highly significant locality for that genus in New Zealand. I believe there were four or five species on Mt. Watkin, out of a total of ten *Grimmia* spp. occurring in New Zealand. I don't know of any other single locality with such a high diversity.

Mt. Watkin is the type locality of *Grimmia inaequalis* Dixon & Sainsbury in Sainsbury, *Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z.* 75: 169B186, *hom. illeg.* Holotype: N.Z., Otago, Mt Watkin, near Waikouaiti, 30 Nov. 1935, G. Simpson & J.S. Thomson, s.n. (Herb. G.O.K. Sainsbury 823), WELT!, Isotypes: BM (not seen, cited by Bell, 1984), CHR 486071! *Grimmia inaequalis* is homotypic with *Grimmia incrassicapsulis*.

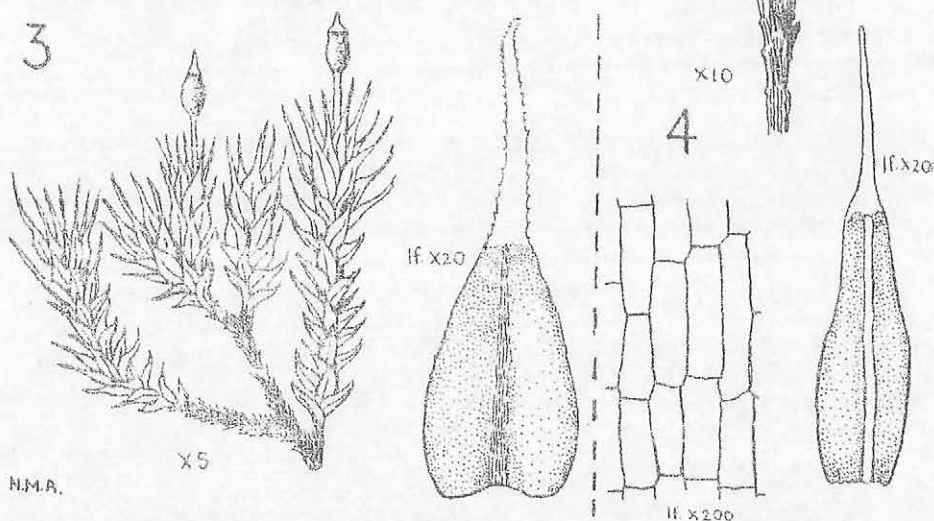
Two species of *Grimmia* that occur there and which are relatively rare in New Zealand are:

1. *Grimmia incrassicapsulis* B.G.Bell On basalt, conglomerate, greywacke, and probably on schist rocks. The many collections from the basaltic type locality (Mt. Watkin) appear to come from both well-sheltered and exposed situations, with some from "fissures on non-sheltered faces of rocks in jumbled mass of basaltic boulders" and another from a "talus slope in sheltered situations." Ranging from c. 450–1990 m (on Eyre Ra.); seven collections from the type locality (i.e. Mt Watkin) appear to all come from between 450 and 550 m. This species is known from approx. seven localities in New Zealand, but is best documented from Mt. Watkin. Also confirmed from Tasmania and reported from S Georgia.

2. *Grimmia longirostris* Hook., Nearly cosmopolitan but rare in many parts of its range. On dry rock from 610–1850 m (in Remarkable Ra). Little is known of the substrate requirements of this poorly documented species in N.Z. Muñoz, (1999, p. 150) considers it to occur on "any kind of rock, from acidic to ultrabasic" and to have a wide altitudinal range in Latin America. In N.Z. it sometimes co-occurs with *G. trichophylla*. This species is known from a total of six New Zealand localities, all in Otago and Canterbury.

Allan Fife, Landcare Research, Lincoln.

Grimmia laevigata (3) and
Grimmia inaequalis (4)
(= *Grimmia incrasscapsulis*),
drawn by Nancy Adams in
Sainsbury, GOK,
Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., Bulletin No. 5,
A Handbook of the New Zealand Mosses,
Wellington, 1955



Proposed Mt Watkin Reserve -

- important site for vulnerable new *Gingidia* sp

I was just reading the notes in the recent BSO newsletter on Mt Watkin. The *Gingidia* (native aniseed) there is particularly interesting. Brian Patrick noted quite a number of years ago that *Gingidia* plants from NE Otago had a different invertebrate fauna from *G. montana*, and he considered it to be a different species.

I've been looking at this over the past 2 years and agree with Brian that there is an unnamed species of *Gingidia* in NE Otago. I think Mt Watkin is the southern limit and it goes north to near the Mill House. It's most common around Trotters Gorge. At quite a number of the sites that Brian recorded it from, and to which I've been back, and not found it, it is being shaded out by broom and forestry plantations. The record from Mt Watkin is therefore a very important one.

Peter Heenan, Landcare Research, Lincoln

Brief Biography

DANIEL SOLANDER

(1733 - 1782)

Ted Nye, Otago Scandinavian Society

Daniel Solander was born at Piteå in the north of Sweden into a family with a tradition in the Lutheran priesthood and the law.

At the age of 17 Solander went to study law at Uppsala University but he rapidly turned his interests towards natural history and studied under Carl Linnaeus. Linnaeus was by then gaining an international reputation by reason of his innovative views on classification which, some years later, influenced Darwin.

Solander went to London at the age of 25, where he was in demand to introduce the English botanists to the Linnaean system of classification. Solander worked at the British Museum and soon came to the notice of Sir Joseph Banks. Banks in turn was to be one of the scientific party to travel with Captain Cook to the Pacific in 1769. Banks and Solander clearly got on well on this voyage, and an enthusiastic partnership began which led to the discovery of hundreds of new plant species in Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia.

Solander was thus the first professional botanist to collect and describe New Zealand plant species, either on his own, or in collaboration with Banks. Cheeseman (1925) lists about 35 New Zealand species so described. In addition, some other authors honoured Solander by giving plants the epithet '*solandri*', as in *Astelia solandri*.



Edible *Urtica* spp. -

New Zealand nettles

Bill Sykes, Christchurch

(excerpts from New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter, # 72, June 2003)

...Turning to New Zealand, I agree with our President, who wrote the note on creamy nettle soup that started me off on the nettle trail, that the normally available nettle for eating here is *Urtica urens*, annual nettle, another widespread Northern Temperate species. *U. urens* is common to abundant in many gardens here, whereas although *U. dioica* grows in New Zealand it is scattered and uncommon and I have rarely seen it. However, *U. urens* makes a very acceptable substitute, and I often stir-fry it along with other wild greenery such as *Sonchus oleraceus*, puha, *Stellaria media*, chickweed, and the wild form of *Pastinaca sativa*, parsley.....

.....I naturally wondered what our *U. ferox*, ongaonga or tree nettle, would be like in the pan. This native species is more like the Himalayan *Gerardinia diversifolia* with similar very prominent bristly stinging hairs that cause more and longer-lasting pain than the other species mentioned. Since I regularly see plenty of *U. ferox* on Banks Peninsula I decided to 'give it a go'. Apart from having too thin gloves on when I collect some young tops all went well, but I still prefer the texture of *U. urens* for eating.....Now I see that in his 1981 book 'A field guide to the native edible plants of New Zealand' Andrew Crowe warns against *U. ferox*although extolling the virtues of eating the native *U. incisa*. But I am reluctant to eat other native nettles.....because they are often rare or uncommon.....Even some populations of both *U. urens* and *U. ferox* on Banks Peninsula I browse gently so that I leave plenty for the caterpillars of our beautiful native butterflies the Red and Yellow Admirals.

A small quite incidental discovery that I made about *U. ferox* was that when the young tops are kept in a damp plastic bag in the fridge for a few days, as I do for other greenery that is not for immediate consumption, they lose virtually all their stinging capacity. Yet they appear to be just as fresh as when they were put in, including those long, white, rigid bristles, but they could be handled almost with impunity. This was definitely not the case with tops that were kept outside the fridge.....

Nettles do almost lose their sting in the cold

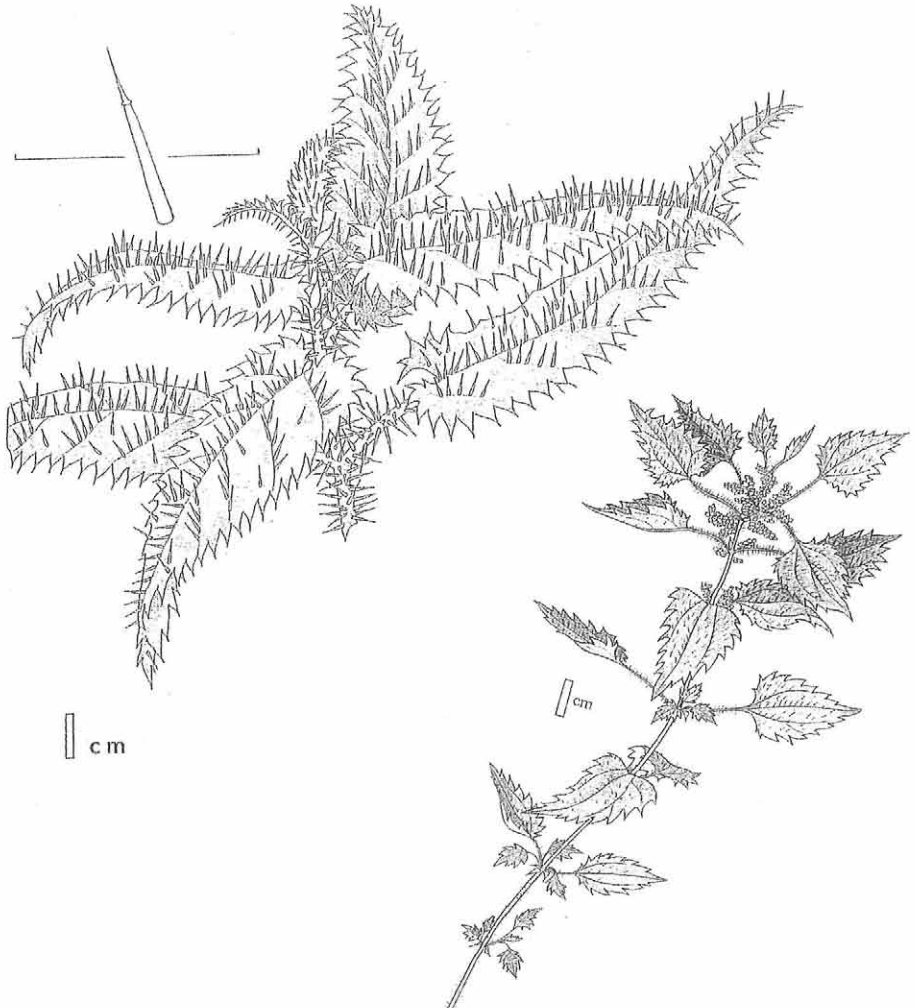
Allison Knight

By coincidence, I tramped last weekend with a friend in the snow on Banks Peninsula, from Gebbies Pass up the new track to the sign of the Pack Horse. Who should appear over the horizon there but David Glenny, who generously offered to drive us back to our car so we could complete the round trip.

As we walked through the snow down towards Kaituna Valley, we noticed David cautiously stroking the tips of that fierce native stinging nettle, *Urtica ferox*. When asked why he was tempting fate like that, David explained that Bill Sykes had discovered that a few days in the fridge appeared to inactivate most of the stinging

mechanism, so he was just testing to see whether a prolonged cold snap had the same effect in the field. It did. Intrigued, we cautiously stroked the frigid nettles ourselves, and even became bold enough to nibble a leaf or two. I have to say that to me it tasted like cardboard, and that my thumb tingled for 24 h after the sampling.

When I returned to Dunedin there was the latest NZ Bot.Soc Newsletter with Bill Sykes' article waiting to enlighten and inform me. I was pleased to see that he had underlined the word almost, and inspired to share the curious experience.



Tree nettle, ongaonga, *Urtica ferox* (shrub), above, and the native stinging nettle, *Urtica incisa* (herb), below. From Hugh D Wilson's field guide; Stewart Island Plants, Manuka Press, Christchurch, 1994

The 36 hectare Otanomomo Scientific Reserve, 10 km south of Balclutha on the road to Owaka, will be familiar to those who have driven to the Catlins or Kaka Point. It is an important remnant of fertile alluvial podocarp forest, a forest type which is rare not only in Otago but in most parts of New Zealand. Otanomomo is now the only place in Otago where this type of forest is reserved. At 100 km/h all looks well, with magnificent emergent crowns of rimu, kahikatea and matai towering above the canopy, but underneath is a different story. Substantial areas, particularly on the northern and western edges, are infested with Chilean flame creeper (*Tropeolum speciosum*) and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*). Chilean flame creeper is also abundant in treefall gaps elsewhere within the forest. At lower abundance, a suite of woody weeds – often garden escapees – can also be found. These include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), spindle tree (*Euonymus europaeus*), daphne (*Daphne laureola*), flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) and gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*). The reserve is also home to a small population of the endangered tree daisy *Olearia hectorii*.

Fortunately, help is at hand. Dunedin Branch of Forest & Bird has been contracted by the Department of Conservation to undertake ‘close encounter’ weed control at Otanomomo, with the aim of restoring a self-sustaining native understorey that is resistant to further weed invasion. The project also aims to enhance and protect the population of *O. hectorii*.

Initial work, including identification of priority areas for control, and planning and cutting of access routes has begun; however during winter weed control work will be limited. The major weed control effort will begin in spring and summer when the weeds are actively growing and thus more susceptible to chemical herbicides, such as Vigilant gel. However some work has begun on cutting back blackberry and releasing native trees from competition, at the western end of the reserve.

We are also planning to relocate and clearly identify all individuals of *O. hectorii*, well ahead of the spring/summer weed control onslaught. This is the initial part of propagating *O. hectorii* and establishing long-term sites in which to plant them.

The project will depend heavily on the work of volunteers and it is hoped that members of the Botanical Society of Otago will be represented among them. Planning is underway for a Forest & Bird field trip to the reserve that will incorporate the opportunity for a look around as well as some hands on work. BSO members will be welcome.

In the meantime, if you would like to be involved, we can add you to our volunteer list, which is alerted to volunteer workdays by email. At present these workdays are taking place both during the week and at weekends. Please contact project leader David McFarlane by emailing miniwaka@xtra.co.nz, or phoning (03) 473-7259.

Meeting Reports

Allison Knight

On the evening of 28 May, Dr Steve L Stephenson, Fairmont State College, USA, talked to a convivial gathering on *Special microhabitats for myxomycetes in terrestrial ecosystems* and entertained us with a slide show on the special places slime moulds occur from arctic tundra to tropical forests. The microscopic fruiting bodies of myxomycetes are exquisitely colourful when magnified on a projector screen. A shared Chinese banquet at the Asian Restaurant afterwards added to the international pleasure of the occasion.

Our June talk was held at noon on 4 June, in conjunction with the Department of Botany lunchtime seminar series. Barbara Wheeler, Collections Supervisor, Dunedin Botanic Garden. Illustrated her topic of *Israel – Land of Extremes* with some interesting slides and observations from her recent visit. It is quite a shock to be suddenly transported to a country with such different perspectives, where there are whole fields of the gladioli I strive to maintain here, and where protecting native plants is of very low priority in the face of the struggle to maintain national borders.

Books – (reviews are always welcome!).

The closest we come to a book review this issue is this apt quote sent by Chuck Landis

I've recently been reading Frank Kingdon Ward's *Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges*, the new Cox edition, and found a quote Bot. Soc.-ers might enjoy. In Chap. 1 he discusses the relationship between K-W and his companion, Lord Cawdor. The two did not get along well and Cox cites an interesting quote from Cawdor's diary:

"It drives me clean daft to walk behind him--stopping every 10 yards and hardly moving in between--in the whole of my life, I've never seen such an incredibly slow mover--if I ever travel again I'll make damn sure its not with a botanist. They are always stopping to look at weeds".

Too bad. Cawdor didn't know what he was missing!

Special Book deals and ordering details

BSO Members Discount: Many botanical books, not just from Landcare, and 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.

Email: MWPress@landcareresearch.co.nz (NOTE CHANGE of email address!!)

Online ordering website: <http://www.mwpress.co.nz>

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Department of Conservation publications, such as the new threatened species classifications and lists, may be ordered by contacting:

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Web Sites and a Bulletin Board

TAXACOM: A Botanical Bulletin Board System

David Orlovich

Taxacom is an email list that has been around since the days when the internet was still the special domain of University students and geeky researchers, before our society was thrown headfirst into what we now know as 'the web'. In 1987, it's quite possible you had a personal computer at home, but email wasn't common outside universities or research organisations, and there you had to log in to a 'mainframe computer' (not as powerful as my office computer) without the benefit of drop down menus, fancy graphics and auto-completing address books.

On the 12th January 1987, Richard Zander, the Curator of Botany at the Buffalo Museum in New York State started a bulletin board, where botanists around the world could meet - in virtual space that is - and discuss the exciting new world of 'taxonomic computing' - or Taxacom for short. The original plans were grand - to even include an online electronic journal called Flora Online that was free from the constraints of the paper press. I joined and left Taxacom several times over the 16 years that it has been running as my interest in taxonomy and systematics has woven it's winding path to where I am today (wherever that is!).

On any given day I might have between 0 and 30 emails from Taxacom subscribers. On a quiet day, I can only presume Taxacomers (as they're known) are busy slaving over plant presses, microscopes and 150 year old species descriptions written in a language now only spoken by peasants in Lesser Antillies. On a busy day - well ... emails fly from one bunker to another as Taxacomers argue about anything related to their increasingly threatened, but increasingly important jobs - the impact of molecular biology on 'traditional' taxonomy, fighting the revolutionaries who are trying to defile the Linnaen system of classification by introducing a new code called the Phylocode (or 'defile-o-code' as someone said!).

The debate between cladistic and 'eclectic' classification always gets people typing, and even - you guessed it - a good discussion on the use of humorous, trivial or altogether

outrageous names people give to new species of plants or animals. You can subscribe to Taxacom at http://biodiversity.uno.edu/mail_archives/taxacom/ - you don't have to post any emails - just lurk for a while and see if you like it. I've found that being part of Taxacom is a great way to become part of a wider taxonomic and systematic community. Taxacom's subscribers also include a healthy number of entomologists - so it's not just for botanists. You'll find that the diversity of people and personalities make Taxacom a lively, interesting, educational and sometimes downright annoying email list - one that is certainly worth a try if you've got an interest in taxonomy.

Curiosities of Biological Nomenclature

Allison Knight

Val S, of Melbourne, another TAXACOMer, passed on the home page of Doug Yanega, who, among other things, collects quirky plant and animal names. Even *Hebejeebie* featured there, but since then the site has been hit by a virus and is out of action. But checking it lead me to Mark Isaak's home page: - <http://home.earthlink.net/~misaak/taxonomy.html>, which has a funny and informative page on the rules for naming animal, plant and microbiological species. It also has a long list of curious name, mainly animal, but with a few raunchy plants thrown in.

How to identify a macrolichen

Allison Knight

Quite a few of our lichens have affinity with North American lichens, so the website of the Farlow Herbarium at Harvard is worth a look. Try out the section on identifying macrolichens: <http://www.huh.harvard.edu/collections/lichens/howto.html> It could be useful, especially if you are coming to our Lichens on Twigs Workshop.

NZ Threat Classification System Update

Rod Hitchmough

The documents describing the New Zealand Threat Classification system (Molloy et al 2002; Threatened Species Occasional Publication 22), and listing the taxa identified as threatened or data deficient (Hitchmough 2002; Threatened Species Occasional Publication 23) were published at the end of 2002. The initial print run immediately ran out, but a reprint is currently under way. **Please note that with the publication of these new lists, the Molloy and Davis (1994) A,B,C etc. categories, and de Lange et al (1999) lists have become obsolete and should no longer be used.**

The DOC documents can also be accessed on the internet and the lists are available as an excel spreadsheet, which is easier to search for individual species. To access the documents, open the DOC website : <http://www.doc.govt.nz/> then follow the following series of links: Publications>Science & Research>Biodiversity Recovery Unit Publications>Threatened Species Occasional Publications>Numbers 22 & 23.

(abridged from NZ Botanical Newsletter Number 72, June 2003)

<http://www.botany.otago.ac.nz/bs/>

Our own web site now contains trip details, membership forms, contact details and links to other websites of Botanical interest. A few of these links are printed below to whet your appetite. Check it out to see the new picture and other changes David Orlovich has made, with updates on trips and activities

More links of Botanical interest (from the BSO Website)

Wellington Botanical Society: <http://wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz/>

Web site includes forthcoming trips, meetings, articles, trip reports etc.

Rotorua Botanical Society: <http://www.wildland.co.nz/botanical.htm>

Web site includes the tables of contents from past issues of the newsletter.

The New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists: <http://nzsp.hort.cri.nz/>

Includes details upcoming conferences, a list of members and the 'Outstanding Physiologist' award.

The New Zealand Ecological Society: <http://www.nzes.org.nz/>

Includes an online newsletter and abstracts from the NZ Journal of Ecology.

The New Zealand Alpine Garden Society: <http://www.backyardgardener.com/nz.html>

Web site has contact information for this society. They have a seed exchange.

The New Zealand Native Orchid Group:

<http://www.anos.org.au/groups/newzealand/nznog.html>

Includes full-text access to 'Orchid Journal'

The New Zealand Plant Protection Society:

<http://www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/>

[Site dedicated to weeds, pathogens etc. They have a research scholarship and a conference travel grant for students.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture: <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/>

The RNZIH is NZ's only National Horticultural Society. Their mission is to 'Encourage and improve horticulture in New Zealand by promoting the understanding, appreciation, conservation and use of plants'

Australian Systematic Botany Society: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/asbs/>

The Australian Systematic Botany Society (ASBS) is an incorporated association of over 300 people with professional or amateur interest in botany. The aim of the Society is to promote the study of plant systematics

The Botanical Society of America: <http://www.botany.org/>

Publish the American Journal of Botany

Lichens on Twigs Workshop, with Jennifer Bannister and Allison Knight.

26 July, Saturday 10 am- 4pm. Department of Botany, 464 Great King St

Snow has been falling and wind blowing, exposing and dropping twigs. Lichens growing on the newly exposed bark of twigs are good environmental monitors. We thought it would be interesting to get an indication of what is growing on twigs in the wider Dunedin area, and then talk about the possibility of a distribution map.

Do start collecting interesting twigs you come across. Please note where you found them and what tree or shrub they are from. Air-dry them and store them in a dry place (or in the freezer if you want to slow the browsing by invertebrates). **Bring:** lichens on twigs, hand lens, and lunch. Microscopes, and laboratory space are generously made available by the Department of Botany. Tea and coffee will be supplied by BSO.

Related reading and websites

Try the British website on lichens on twigs interactive keys to UK lichens on twigs and an illustrated glossary: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/botany/lichen/twig/>

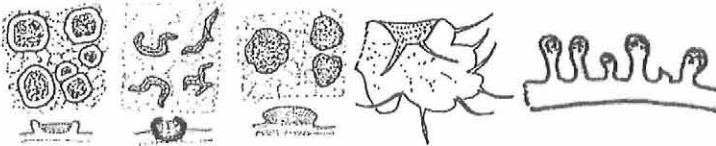
Also the Farlow Herbarium web page on how to identify a macrolichen:

<http://www.huh.harvard.edu/collections/lichens/howto.html>

For a guide to common New Zealand species, see: *Lichens on Trees; Identification guide to common lichens and plants on urban and rural trees in New Zealand*, by PN Johnson and DJ Galloway, Landcare Research, Dunedin, 1999.

Brief Lichen Glossary - from <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/botany/lichen/twig/>

apothecia - spore-producing fruiting bodies of the fungal partner.



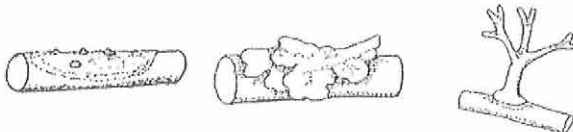
apothecia

cilia

isidia

cilia - whisker-like projections from the margin of a foliose or fruticose lichen.

crustose lichens - crust-like lichens that grow directly on or under the bark surface and cannot be removed without cutting the bark.



crustose

foliose

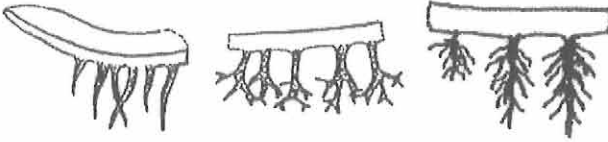
fruticose

foliose lichens - leaf-like lichens with spreading to upright flattened lobes that are attached to the twig from the lower surface of each lobe.

fruticose lichens - branched, shrub-like lichens that are attached to the twig by a single sucker-like holdfast.

isidia - darker (than thallus) finger- to knob-like propagules.

rhizines - root-like attachments from the lower surface of a foliose lichen. They may be simple (left), branched (centre) or bottle brush like (right).



soredia - paler (than thallus) powdery to granular vegetative propagules containing algal and fungal partners. Often occurring in specialised bodies called soralia (far left), on the lobe margins or ends (center left), on the upper surface in cracks (center right), or as dots (far right).



sorediate - with soredia.

spores - produced in fruiting bodies following sexual reproduction.

thallus - the lichen body, usually with lobes in foliose lichens.

Condolences

BSO committee

We wish to extend our sympathy to BSO member Jane Wright, on the tragic loss of her husband Brian, who died accidentally in Wellington on 16th March. Jane was an active and appreciated member while she worked at the Dunedin Botanic Garden and she has maintained links with us through her shift to Wellington to work at Otari. Now she has now moved even further up in the world to look after plant propagation for the Auckland Regional Council and we wish her every success for the future.

Our sympathy also goes to Rex and Janet Malthus, who lost their son Peter, 48, on June 25th after a long illness.

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Inaugural Meeting –

An inaugural meeting of the NZPC Network will be held at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington on Saturday 2nd August 2003, with a field trip to Kapiti Is on Sunday.

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

GLOBAL PLANT CONSERVATION STRATEGY TARGETS:

- Target 2: A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species and communities (at national, regional and international levels). What role will the network have in undertaking this assessment?
- Target 5: Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured. What are the most important areas for threatened plant species and communities and how are they to be protected?
- Target 8: 60 per cent of threatened plant species are in accessible *ex situ* collections and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes. How is this target to be met in New Zealand?
- Target 11: No species of wild flora is endangered through international trade. Is legal protection of New Zealand threatened plants required and how is this to be achieved?
- Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation is incorporated into education and public awareness programmes. What role will the network have in raising public awareness of plant conservation?
- Target 15: The number of trained people working, with appropriate facilities in plant conservation, is increased, according to national needs. What plant conservation training programmes are needed and how should these be delivered?

KEY NATIONAL TARGETS:

Integration of iwi in threatened species recovery and education programmes.

Restoration using nationally threatened plants. How can we improve efficiencies at putting back our threatened flora in revegetation programmes?

More details and registration form on BSO noticeboard or from:

Mike Oates (Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz),

John Sawyer (jsawyer@doc.govt.nz),

Tim Park (tpark@qc2.org.nz) or New Zealand Plant Conservation Network,
PO Box 16-102, Wellington South, New Zealand.

drawing from nature workshop

Saturday August 9, 10am – 5pm

Cleveland Living Arts Centre

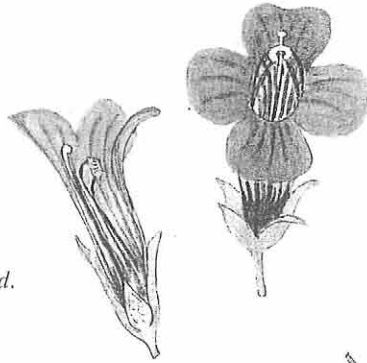
Dunedin Railway Station

22 Anzac Ave

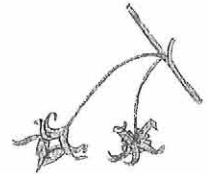
Ph 477 7291

Details of *Rhabdothamnus solandri*

From *Eagle's trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*.



If you were sorry you missed the Botanical Illustration Workshop,, here's another chance to hone your drawing skills. This more general workshop will cater for all levels of ability, with a focus on plant-related material.



Technical aspects of the workshop will include pictorial composition, scale, creating 3-dimensionality, texture and form. Monica will bring a wide range of source books featuring everything from contemporary NZ illustrators to Japanese watercolours to Victorian travellers... to provide both inspiration, as well as create an historical/ cultural context for this very broad subject.

This workshop will structured to suit participants' aims; some may want to produce a series of sketches that experiment with a variety of different techniques and styles while others may want to focus on producing one finished work. Don't forget that the Botanical Society of Otago welcomes original drawings, and has just instituted the Audrey Eagle Prize for the best drawing submitted to the BSO newsletter.

Materials:

Basic materials will be supplied (white cartridge paper, spray fix, rubbers, pencils) so please bring any specialist items you will need e.g. watercolours, brushes and watercolour or other heavier weight papers, technical pens and so forth. A hand lens is useful if you have one.

Please also bring a plant to draw!

Course fee is \$60

For more information contact the Cleveland Centre

Or Monica Peters, email: map_monica@hotmail.com

Botanical Diary

Australasian Events

Melbourne, 29 Sept - 3 October 2003. A joint conference of the **Australian Systematic Botany Society** and the **Australasian Mycological Society** with the **7th Australasian Bryophyte Workshop** and the **Orchid Conservation Forum II**. Email: bhwitt@unimelb.edu.au. Register online at: www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/150years. Flyer on BSO noticeboard.

19th John Child Bryophyte Workshop, 11-16 Sept, 2003. Hunua Ranges, Auckland

The Hunua Ranges, 50 km SE of Auckland, rise to 688 m and are a water catchment area. Major vegetation types are podocarp/broadleaf forest, with some kauri (*Agathis australis*), and small areas dominated by hard beech (*Nothofagus truncata*). There are also some areas of second growth forest dominated by kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*). In addition an excursion is planned to swamp land to the south. **All levels of expertise welcome, including beginners**, who might like to know that bryophyte is a general term which includes mosses, liverworts and hornworts. The workshop will run from evening of Thursday 11th September to morning of Tuesday 16th September. It will be held at Kokako Lodge at Hunua Falls in the Hunua Ranges, less than an hour's drive south east of Auckland City. Transport will be arranged from Auckland airport. Accommodation is in bunkrooms. A great chance for southern botanists to enjoy 4 days in the beautiful northern NZ forests and swamps, and learn more about the smaller plants. For further information, or to be placed on the list to receive the first circular, contact Mei Nee Lee:

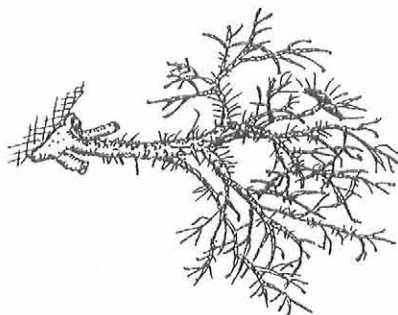
Botany Dept. Auckland Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, New Zealand.

Email: Meineel@akmuseum.org.nz

Wellington Botanical Society Summer Field Trip 31 Dec 2003 – 11 Jan 2003, West Coast and Murchison

31 Dec – 4 Jan, Kokiri Lodge, 8 km east of Stillwater, near Greymouth
6 Jan – 11 Jan, Mataki Lodge, Tutaki Valley, 33 km east of Murchison
Botanise West Coast Forests, Nelson Lakes National Park and Lake Matiri/Thousand Acres Plateau. More details next newsletter.

Usnea sp: lichen
(old man's beard)
from *Lichens on Trees; Identification guide to common lichens and plants on urban and rural trees in New Zealand*,
PN Johnson and DJ Galloway,
Landcare Research, Dunedin, 1999



Local events: *BSO events in boxes, extra details on front cover & inside*

23 July, Wed 5.30 pm, **Dr Ted Nye**, Otago Scandinavian Club, on "**Solander, the first professional botanist to visit New Zealand**". Bring \$1 donation for nibbles or \$2 for wine. At the **NEW Zoology Benham Building**, 346 Gt King St, behind the Zoology car park by the Captain Cook. Use the main entrance of Benham Building to get in and go to the Benham Seminar Room, Rm 215. 2nd floor. Please be prompt, we may have to hold the door open.

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

26 July, Sat 10 am- 4pm. **Lichens on twigs workshop**, Dept of Botany, 464 Great King St. With **Jennifer Bannister** and Allison Knight. Details inside.

2 August, Sat, 9 am – 5 pm. **New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Inaugural Meeting** at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington. Field trip to Kapiti Island on Sunday. Details inside.

6 August, Wed 12 noon, Dept of Botany seminar. ***Do stable isotopes tell us anything about species distribution in relation to climate?*** A test using two species widespread in New Zealand: *Leptospermum scoparium* (manuka) and *Ramalina celastri*, a fruticose lichen. **Dr Kevin Gould**, School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland

9 August, Saturday. Field trip to **Orokonui Reserve**. [Rain date Sun 10 August] Led by **Ralph Allen**, Wildland Consultants. Details front cover.

9 August, Saturday, 10 am-5pm. **Botanical Illustration Workshop**. Led by **Monica Peters**, in conjunction with the Cleveland Living Arts Centre at the Dunedin Railway Station. Details inside.

20 August, Wed. 5.30 pm. ***Highlights of a High Country Summer - from the Lakes to the Landsborough***. Guest speaker **John Barkla** (DOC Otago). See front page

24 September, Wed 5.30 pm. "***An introduction to New Zealand gecko and plant associations***" Guest speaker **Mandy Tocher**. Venue etc. inside front page.

27 Sept., Saturday. Field trip to a **Warrington Garden and Seacliff Reserve**, with **Carol and Chuck Landis**. Details inside front page.

Ramalina inflexa, sterile.
On *Hoheria*, Banks Peninsula



Local contacts and meeting places of groups with overlapping interests.

University of Otago Botany Dept Seminars are on Wednesdays during teaching semesters at 12 noon, upstairs in the Union St Lecture Theatre (formerly Botany School Annexe), in the red-brown bldg, Cnr Union St West & Great King St. **Contact: Trish Fleming, Secretary, phone 479 7577, email: trish@planta.otago.ac.nz**

Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club (DNFC) Meetings are at 7.30 pm, first Monday of the month, in the Zoology Dept Seminar Room, (NOTE CHANGED VENUE) Great King St. Their field trips leave from the Citibus Depot, Princess St. Visitors are welcome. **Contact: Beth Bain, President, 455 0189, email: bethbain@ihug.co.nz**

Dunedin Forest and Bird (F&B) meetings are on Tuesday, at 7.45 pm in the Hutton Theatre, Otago Museum. Field trips leave from Otago Museum Gt King St entrance, 9am, Saturday. **Secretary: Paul Star 478 0315**

Friends of the Botanic Garden meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Education Centre, Lovelock Ave. **Secretary: Mrs Betty Wolf, 488 1550**

DOC Conservation Volunteers: ongoing opportunities for hands on conservation work in coastal Otago. Learn new skills in some neat places, help conservation efforts and have fun all the while! To sign up, and receive newsletters and event programmes, **contact Caren Shrubshall, DOC: Ph 474 6932, or Steve Broni, email: sbroni@doc.govt.nz**

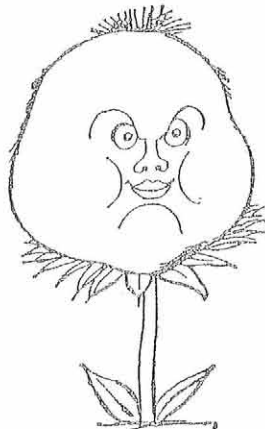
Otago Institute (OI) contact: **Michelle McConnell, secretary, phone 479 5729, email: michelle.mcconnell@stonebow.otago.ac.nz . Web site: <http://otagoinstitute.otago.ac.nz/>**

Southland Natural History Field Club. Meetings 7.30pm on the second Thursday of the month, currently at the Otatara Hall, just out of Invercargill. Field trips the following Saturday or Sunday to places of botanical, ornithological, ecological or geological interest. **Contact Lloyd Esler 032130404, email esler@southnet.co.nz**

Otago Alpine Garden Group Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens Centre, Lovelock Avenue at 7.30 pm. The Group operates a seed exchange and holds periodic field trips and garden visits. **Contact: Secretary, P.O. Box 1538, Dunedin or Les Gillespie Ph 489-6013**

Times and other details may change.
Check with the group involved first.

Phattfacia stupenda
from Edward Lear's
Nonsense Botany



Botanical Society of Otago: whom to contact

Our new mailing address is:

Botanical Society of Otago, PO Box 6214, Dunedin North, New Zealand

For membership enquiries, email or phone the **treasurer** or **secretary**, below.

For media, publicity or event enquiries, email the **secretary**:

Robyn Bridges, *robyn.bridges@stonebow.otago.ac.nz*, ph 479 8244

To suggest or send newsletter items, email the newsletter editor:

Allison Knight, *bsa@botany.otago.ac.nz*, ph 487 8265

To suggest or offer trip ideas or speakers for our monthly activities, email any of the above, or one of the other **committee members**:

Treasurer, **Frances Anderson**, *francesa@es.co.nz*,

Events Manager, **Arlene McDowell**, *arlene.mcdowell@stonebow.otago.ac.nz*

Kelvin Lloyd, *lloydk@landcareResearch.co.nz*;

John Barkla, *jbarkla@doc.govt.nz* or **Bastow Wilson**, *bastow@otago.ac.nz*

For information on activities contact the trip leader, or see our notice board or website: <http://www.botany.otago.ac.nz/bsa/>

This Newsletter was published on 16 July 2003. ISSN 0113-0854

Please submit copy for next newsletter by end of August 2003

Membership form: Botanical Society of Otago, 2003



Title: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address
(work or home) _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: work () _____ home () _____



Annual Subscriptions are due by the beginning of each calendar year.

Only \$5 Student (unwaged), [\$ 20 for 5 years]

\$15 Waged (salary) [\$60 for 5 years],

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Donations are welcomed

Cheques to: "Botanical Society of Otago". **Post to:** Treasurer, BSO,
P.O. Box 6214, Dunedin North, New Zealand

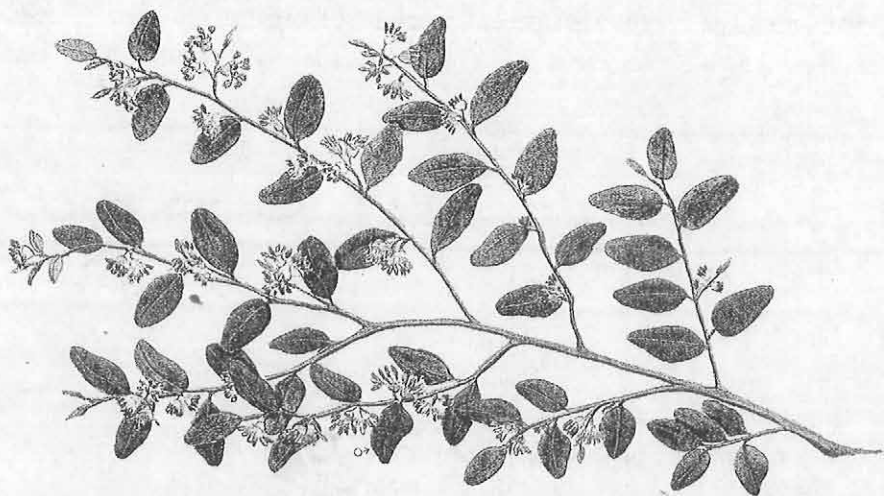
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John Barkla
26 Larkins Street
Dunedin
New Zealand

[2003 : Family]



Nothofagus solandri var. *solandri*
Black beech