BOOK REVIEW

THE FLORA OF NEW ZEALAND - VOL. 2.

At last after nearly ten years the section of the flora dealing with Monocotyledons is available, the only blow being that the grasses have been excluded to form a third volume of their own. The authors, Doctors Lucy Moore and Elizabeth Edgar of the Botany Division D.S.I.R. have in this work confirmed their positions at the forefront of New Zealand botanical efforts. As in the first volume, the illustrations are by Nancy Adams (except those of the orchids by Mr. J. Bruce Irwin) and it is a great pleasure to note their greater relative abundance than in the first volume.

The general appearance of the new volume is rather similar to the first volume but with pages of somewhat thicker paper. There are only some 400 pages, a total which includes the glossary, index, corrigenda to Vol. 1, the introductory section and a list of chromosome numbers for Monocotyledons, Dicotyledons and Gymnosperms. This last is an important addition to the flora and as well as indicating relationships between various groups of species in the flora it will also help to point out gaps in our knowledge of this important feature.

As is natural in the 45 years since Cheeseman's Manual there are a number of name changes and a not unexpected increase in the number of Families (from 15 - 22), Genera (from 68 - 75) and species (from 277 - 339). The number of varieties has however been considerably reduced from 66 to 18. The largest families remain the familiar Cyperaceae, Orchidaceae and Juncaceae. The largest genus by far is Carex with 73 species and this is followed by Uncinia, Scirpus, Pterostylis and Juncus.

An important part of the book is the section which lists errors that have been detected in Vol. 1 with their corrections and for those who have the opportunity to do so I recommend that they fill these corrections in, in the appropriate place in their copy of Vol. 1, using Indian ink, not ordinary ink.

Some of the family names will be unfamiliar to many readers but the genera within them will often be only too familiar e.g. Smilacaceae (Ripogonum), Philesiaceae (Luzuriaga) and Agavaceae (Cordyline and Phormium).

In many ways the new volume can stand on its own, though I am sure those who use it in conjunction with the first volume will get the greatest use from it. Features that I have already found particularly useful are the diagrams illustrating key features of the genera within the Juncaceae (p.57) and the Cyperaceae (pp. 168 - 169) and the nuts of the species of Gahnia (p. 211).

Some of the more important name changes I have listed on the following page. I have tried to choose those which are most likely to affect local users.

First there is one correction to the first volume: Gymnelaea becomes Nestegis.

Old Name	New Name
Cladium sinclairii	Machaerina sinclairii
" capillaceum	Tetraria capillaris
" vauthiera	Lepidosperma australe
All other species	Baumea
Gahnia gahniaeformis	Morelotia affinis
Mariscus	Cyperus (ustulatus)
Scirpus frondosus	Desmoschoenus spiralis
Uncinia australis (in part)	Uncinia uncinata
Dianella intermedia	Dianella nigra

Astelia and Collospermum. Details of the changes here have already been printed in an earlier bulletin.

Enargea	Luzuriaga (L. parviflora)
Phormium colensoi	Phormium cookianum

Luzula - a number of changes at specific level and below.

Leptocarpus simplex	Leptocarpus similis
Hypolaena lateriflora	Calophorus minor
Typha muelleri	Typha orientalis
Sparganium antipodum	Sparganium subglobosum

Libertia - Past confusion between L. ixioides and L. grandiflora is clarified and a new species L. peregrinans mentioned.

Orchids:

Townsonia is merged in Acianthus (A. viridis)

Corybas macranthus var. longipetalus - C. orbicularis

Microtis now has 3 spp.

Sarcochilus	Drymoanthus (d. adversus)

J. Braggins.