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A NEW JOURNAL PUBLISHES BOTANICAL PAPERS.

On September 4th, 1942, Number 1, Volume 1 of the Records of the Dominion Museum was published.

All botanists will welcome Dr Oliver's account of "The New Vegetation of the Sea Floor raised during the Hawkes Bay Earthquake of 1931". The very fine illustrations, some of which the Society has seen in preview as lantern slides, are a special feature of this record of land vegetation developing amongst the remains of marine animals such as horse mussels.

The papers dealing with Zoology and Ethnology, and Dr Oliver's description of new species of *Ooprosma* from New Guinea and the Hawaiian Islands will be of less interest to members than Dr Oliver's third paper "The Genus *Coriaria* in New Zealand".

In this comprehensive revision, three new species are described, one Colenso species is "revived", and eight hybrids are listed. The seven species, one with two varieties, are illustrated and four of the hybrids.

With regard to the hybrids, one statement challenges attention. "The only way, therefore, to obtain evidence as to how many species of *Coriaria* there are is to collect specimens in localities where only one form is present, or, if this is not possible, where the series can be interpreted as two species and a series of hybrids between them." (p.22)

The laboratory-trained botanist looks forward to the time when chromosome counts will supplement such field studies and the practical gardener could be pardoned for accepting the interpretation with reservations until

artificial hybridization, as recommended on p. 36 has produced plants to match at least some of the wild forms. In many cases, perhaps especially in that of the much-discussed mid-form of Mt Egmont, a useful demonstration could be made by propagating several generations from seed. In a wind-pollinated, protogynous genus like *Coriaria* some care would be required to prevent accidental hybridization in the garden, but that should not be beyond the skill of such an energetic band of growers as Mrs Samson visualises in her letter in this Bulletin.

Mr Potts has shown that the little brown-leaved, undulate-margined form from Mt Hikurangi, now referred to the new species *C. pottsiana*, remains stable in cultivation over ten years, but the account does not state whether it has been proved to come true from seed. By tackling rather long-range projects of this kind, gardening members of the Society could contribute towards the solution of some of the most important problems in the taxonomy of New Zealand plants.

Dr Oliver provides a simple key by which it should be easy to name, without hesitation, any form that he would consider belonged to one of the species described. With his permission, the key is quoted here together with a table, constructed from his lists of synonyms, to show approximately the relation of the new arrangement to the more familiar one of Cheeseman's Manual, and that adopted in Cookayne's Vegetation of New Zealand.

L. B. Moore.

KEY TO NEW ZEALAND SPECIES OF CORIARIA.

Racemes terminal -----	<i>pottsiana</i> Oliver n.
Racemes axillary	
Leaves 1 cm. or less	
Narrow linear -----	<i>angustissima</i> Hok. f.
Narrow lanceolate -----	<i>plumosa</i> Oliver n. sp.
Leaves 1½-2 cm.	
Lanceolate, margin undulate ---	<i>kingiana</i> Colenso
Linear-lanceolate, flat -----	<i>pteridoides</i> Oliver n. sp.
Leaves 4 cm. and over	
Racemes short, semi-woody herb-	<i>sarmentosa</i> Forst.
Racemes long, shrub or tree ---	<i>arborea</i> Lindsay