

ERIC JOHN GODLEY: THE COMPLEAT BOTANIST

In June 1999 colleagues and friends of Eric Godley celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary with a two day symposium held at Lincoln University. The symposium covered a very wide range of botanical subjects. The occasion ended with a dinner in Eric's honour at which Eric's old friends Henry Connor and Geoff Baylis (and Eric himself), spoke. Many a hilarious story was told at this very pleasant event. This article puts on record a brief summary of Eric's professional life and work. It was compiled from information supplied by Trish Faulkner (librarian, Landcare Research, Lincoln), Andy Thomson, Warwick Harris and Colin Webb.

Eric Godley was born in Auckland on 10 May, 1919. He attended Takapuna Grammar School, Auckland Teachers' Training College and Auckland University, where he graduated M.Sc. with Hons in Botany in 1942. He was a keen plant enthusiast from childhood and, as a student was active in the University Field Club and Auckland Botanical Society. However, the World was at war in 1942 and Eric was soon in the New Zealand Army, serving in North Africa and Italy.

When war ended Eric spent two years (1946-47) at Cambridge University (Trinity College) gaining his Ph.D. Returning to New Zealand he lectured in Botany at the University of Auckland, 1947-51. He joined the New Zealand D.S.I.R. in 1951, firstly as Senior Geneticist at Crop Research Division, Lincoln. He became Director of that Division in 1952, but switched to Directorship of Botany Division, Lincoln in 1958, holding the position until his retirement in 1980. However, he continued as D.S.I.R. Lincoln Centre Chairman until 1984. Since then he has been a Research Associate at Botany Division (now Landcare Research). His academic and other awards and honours are: Ph.D. (Cantab.), F.R.S.N.Z., Hon. F.L.S., Assoc. of Honour R.I.H., O.B.E., Corresponding Member, Chilean Academy of Science, Holder of Loder Cup 1984 and Hutton Medal of Royal Society of N.Z. 1986.

The development of botany as a scientific discipline in New Zealand has been very profoundly influenced by Eric Godley. Some of his most important contributions are now briefly outlined.

The facilities which make Lincoln Botany Division New Zealand's principal centre for research on indigenous and naturalised plants were much enhanced during Eric Godley's Directorship. The herbarium, library collections, laboratories, glasshouses, experimental gardens, and live plant collections are tangible proof of his energy and diplomatic skills. He was also highly respected as a manager of the personnel who worked at Lincoln. He presided over a first rate staff, with high morale and motivation.

Projects developed under Eric's guidance include: A chain of regional D.S.I.R. botanical centres throughout New Zealand; the foundation of the New Zealand Journal of Botany and the New Zealand Botanical Society; taxonomic studies leading to the publication of the Flora of New Zealand series (including the completion of Vol. 1, the start and completion of Vols. 2 and 3; the start of the Lichen flora and Vols. 4 and 5); other taxonomic publications including many journal articles, and monographs on alpine *Ranunculus* and *Epilobium*.

Under Eric's leadership the Botany Division staff of scientists carried out diverse and productive research, including projects and many publications on: chromosome counts on New Zealand plants; wood anatomy; atlases of the pollen and seeds of the indigenous flora; ethnobotany relevant to Aotearoa; ecology and conservation, including studies on National Parks, Scenic Reserves and offshore islands; new reservations for conservation purposes; endangered indigenous plants; the weed flora; palaeobotany; botanical art connected with Botany Division publications; the description of the New Zealand vegetation.

Not least of Eric Godley's efforts has been in his own very energetic research career, which continues to this day. He is a very fluent and accomplished writer about this work. The main topics that have interested him are: reproductive systems of New Zealand flowering plants; systematics of certain genera; vegetation, flora and biogeography of the southern cool temperate zone (New Zealand, Subantarctic islands, southern South America); biographies of New Zealand botanists, in relation to their studies (see the list of

publications below). Since retirement Eric has further published, in the *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* up to May 1999, 33 accounts of the lives and work of early botanists in this country. His is a major contribution to the history of botanical science in this country. Also he wrote many fascinating articles about facets of the life of plants, for the *New Zealand Gardener*. Manuka Press is to publish the collected articles next year, in a single volume.

Eric John Godley has had an outstanding career as an administrator and researcher on the botany of New Zealand. He has always been a most courteous and effective person in his relationships with immediate colleagues and also with people in organisations outside the D.S.I.R. Without doubt he is New Zealand's most eminent living botanist.

We wish him well for the future.



Eric Godley, sketched at a Botany Division staff meeting, 1977 (del. Keith West)

PUBLICATIONS BY E. J. GODLEY (up to May 1999)

- Godley, E. J. 1945. Blood group frequencies in New Zealand and Maori soldiers. *Annals of Eugenics* 13: 99-101.
- 1949. Cytology and genetics and their application to New Zealand plants. *Tuatara* 2, No. 3: 109-115.
- (With Staveley, J. M.) 1950. Blood group frequencies in Auckland, New Zealand. *Nature*, 165: 574.
- 1951. Evolution. *New Zealand Science Review* 9: 172-177.
- 1951. Two natural *Agropyron* hybrids occurring in the British Isles. *Annals of Botany* 15: 535-544.
- 1951. The Lysenko affair. *Here and Now* 2, No. 1: 22-24.
- 1955. Breeding systems in New Zealand plants. I. *Fuchsia*. *Annals of Botany* 19: 549-559.
- 1955. Monoecy and incompatibility. *Nature* 176: 1176-1177.
- 1957. Unisexual flowers in the Ericales. *Nature* 180: 284-285.
- 1959. Problems of the origins of species. *New Zealand Science Review* 17: 78-83.
- 1959. Some impressions of a botanist in South America. *Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture* 3: 210-214.
- 1960. The botany of Southern Chile in relation to New Zealand and the Subantarctic. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 152: 457-475.
- 1960. A note on Archibald Menzies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 88: 63-64.
- 1961. *Fauna and flora*. In: *Distance Looks our Way – The Effects of Remoteness on New Zealand*, 1-14. Winter Lecture, 1960, University of Auckland.
- 1963. Breeding systems in New Zealand plants. 2. Genetics of the sex forms in *Fuchsia procumbens*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 1: 48-52.
- 1963. The Royal Society expedition to Southern Chile: Botanist's itinerary. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 1: 316-324.
- 1964. Breeding systems in New Zealand plants. 3. Sex ratios in some natural populations. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 2: 205-212.

- (Editor) 1964. *Plants of New Zealand* by R. M. Laing & E. W. Blackwell. 7th edition, Whitcombe & Tombs, Christchurch.
- 1964. Contributions to the plant geography of Southern Chile. *Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile)* Año XLVIII. 31-39.
- 1965. Notes on the vegetation of the Auckland Islands. *Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society*, 12: 57-63.
- 1965. Botany of the Southern Zone: Exploration to 1843. *Tuatara* 13: 140-181.
- 1966. Breeding systems in New Zealand plants. 4. Self-sterility in *Pentachondra pumila*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 4: 249-254.
- 1967. A century of botany in Canterbury. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, General, 1: 243-266.
- 1967. Widely distributed species, land bridges and continental drift. *Nature* 214: 74-75.
- (Editor) 1967. *New Zealand Plants and Their Story* by Leonard Cockayne. 4th edition, Government Printer, Wellington.
- 1968. The fruit of *Pittosporum pimeleoides*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 6: 118-119.
- (With Sykes, W. R.) 1968. Transoceanic dispersal in *Sophora* and other genera. *Nature* 218: 495-496.
- 1968. A plant list from the Cordillera de San Pedro, Chiloé. *Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile)*, Año LIII, 65-77.
- (With Harvey, Norman B.) 1969. *New Zealand Botanical Paintings*. Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd., Christchurch.
- 1969. Additions and corrections to the flora of the Auckland and Campbell Islands. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 7: 336-348.
- 1970. Botany of the southern zone. Exploration 1847-1891. *Tuatara* 18: 49-93.
- 1971. The fruit of *Vitex lucens* (Verbenaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 9: 561-568.
- (With Markham, K. R.) 1972. Chemotaxonomic studies in *Sophora*. 1. An evaluation of *Sophora microphylla*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10: 627-640.
- 1972. Does planting achieve its purpose? *Forest and Bird*, No. 185: 25-26.
- (With Moar, N. T.) 1973. Vegetation and pollen analysis of two bogs on Chiloé. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 11: 255-268.

- 1975. Kowhais. *New Zealand Nature Heritage* Pt. 65: 1804-1806.
- 1975. Flora and Vegetation. In: *Biogeography and Ecology in New Zealand* (ed. G. Kuschel) 177-229. W. Junk, The Hague.
- 1975. Report on the activities of the Adams Island Party of the 1966 Auckland Islands Expeditions. In: *Preliminary Results of the Auckland Islands Expedition 1972-1973* (ed. J. C. Yaldwyn) 370-376. Department of Lands and Survey, New Zealand.
- (With Rickwood, P. C.) 1975. Proposed names in the Carnley area, Auckland Islands. In: *Preliminary Results of the Auckland Islands Expedition 1972-1973* (ed. J. C. Aldwyn) 376-380.
- 1975. Notes on the vegetation of the Auckland Islands. In: *Preliminary Results of the Auckland Islands Expedition 1972-1973* (ed. J. C. Aldwyn).
- 1976. Flora. In: *New Zealand Atlas* (ed. Ian Wards) 108-111. Government Printer, Wellington.
- 1976. Sex ratio in *Clematis gentianoides* DC. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 14: 299-306.
- (With Smith, D. H.) 1977. Kowhais and their flowering. *Annual Journal, Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture*, No. 5: 24-31.
- 1977. Imbricate sepals in *Clematis*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15: 775-776.
- 1978. Cushion bogs. In: Geocological relations between the southern temperate zone and the tropical mountains. *Erdwissenschaftliche Forschung* 11: 141-158.
- 1979. The 1907 expedition to the Auckland and Campbell Islands, and an unpublished report by B. C. Aston. *Tuatara* 23: 133-158.
- 1979. Leonard Cockayne and evolution. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 17: 197-215.
- 1979. Flower biology in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 17: 441-466.
- 1980. Unilocular anthers in the *Carmichaelieae* (Papilionaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18: 449-450.
- (With Smith, D. H.) 1981. Breeding systems in New Zealand plants. 5. *Pseudowintera colorata* (Winteraceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 19: 151-156.
- 1982. Breeding systems in New Zealand plants. 6. *Gentiana antarctica* and *G. antipoda*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 20: 405-420.
- 1983. The fruit in *Ackama*, *Caldcluvia* and *Weinmannia* (Cunoniaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 21: 463-464.

- 1983. Plants of New Zealand. In: *Sydney Parkinson, Artist of Cook's Endeavour Voyage* (ed. D. J. Carr); 108-127. The Australian National University Press, Canberra.
- 1984. Obituary. Eliza Amy Hodgson, 1888-1983. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 112: 19-25.
- 1985. James Dall (1850-1912) and the discovery of *Pittosporum dallii*. *National Museum of New Zealand Records* 3: 1-12.
- 1985. A visit to the Auckland Islands in the summer of 1962-63. *Tuatara* 28: 1-13.
- 1985. Paths to maturity. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 23: 687-706.
- 1986. Spread of *Olearia lyallii*, Auckland Islands, September 1978. In: *Preliminary Reports of Expeditions to the Auckland Islands Nature Reserve 1973-1984*. (ed. A. Penniket, A. Garrick & E. Breese). Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington.
- 1988. Lucy Beatrice Moore M.B.E., M.Sc., D.Sc. (Cantuar.), F.L.S. 1906-1987 (obituary). *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 116: 44-60.
- 1989. The supposed Easter Island *Sophora* in Christchurch, New Zealand. *Botanic Garden Conservation News* 1 (4): 37-38.
- 1989. The flora of Antipodes Island. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 27: 531-563.
- 1993. Owen Edward Gibson (1928-1978). *New Zealand Native Orchid Group Journal* No. 48: 8-10.
- (With Berry, P. E.) 1995. The biology and systematics of *Fuchsia* in the South Pacific. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 82: 473-516.
- 1997. Further notes on the origin of plant names. *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 49: 14-16.
- (With Reynolds, K.) 1998. The natural populations of *Fuchsia procumbens*. In: *Ecosystems, Entomology and Plants: Proceedings of a symposium held at Lincoln University to mark the retirement of Bryony Macmillan, John Dugdale and Peter Wardle. Miscellaneous Series, Royal Society of New Zealand, No. 48: 127-143.*
- 1998. A summing up: E. F. L. Raoul's contribution to Canterbury and New Zealand botany, pp. 123-126. In: *Etienne Raoul and Canterbury Botany 1840-1996* (ed. C. J. Burrows). Canterbury Botanical Society Special Publication. Manuka Press, Christchurch.