Its parent may have been selected in the wild by the originating nursery person because of the copious fruit set, which does make for horticultural attractiveness, or it may just have been seen as being a specially healthy tree. If it originated through a cutting then other similar trees are likely to be growing here and there in Auckland gardens of "Arataki Age", i.e. c**.** 25 years BP.

The ability of a hermaphrodite *Pennantia* flower to set fruit suggests an answer as to how this "dioecious" tree managed to disperse between Australia, Norfolk I., Three Kings Is. and the New Zealand mainland. And two dispersal events of hermaphrodite *P. corymbosa* from New Zealand could explain the conclusion by my molecular biologists (Keeling, Gardner & de Lange 2004) that *P. baylisiana* and *P. endlicheri* seem not to be sister species, despite their morphological similarity.

References

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Voucher Specimens

Pennantia corymbosa, Arataki Visitor Centre, Waitakere Ranges, on south side of Scenic Drive by carpark and new overbridge, c. 5 m tall and still with juvenile foliage below, flowering, all flowers apparently hermaphrodite, 5 November 2004, ROG 10599, AK.

Tree as above, fruiting copiously, much of it ripe (very dark crimson skin, pale flesh, slightly sweet, insipid but not bitter), 10 March 2005, ROG 10637, AK.

Discovery of sea lavender (*Limonium companyonis*) at Ahuriri Estuary, Napier

Mike Wilcox

Sea lavender (*Limonium companyonis* (Gren. & Billot) Kuntze) of the family Plumbaginaceae is native to southern Europe. It is also known as Riviera sea lavender. It was first recorded at one site on the Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch in 1998 (Heenan *et al.* 1999). It was known from two saltmarsh sites in the estuary in 2003. The Christchurch City Council decided it was a possible ecological threat as it spreads out quickly and could compete with native saltmarsh vegetation (Christchurch City Council 2004).

Fig. 1. *Limonium companyonis* at Ahuriri Estuary. Associated plants are wild beet (*Beta vulgaris*) and glasswort (*Sarcocornia qinqueflora*).

On 14 January 2005 I came across an extensive colony of *Limonium companyonis* in the Ahuriri Estuary, Napier. It is a semi-woody herb with pink flowers. A collection was made (CHR 570837) – the first record of this species in the North Island.

Fig. 2. Specimen CHR570937 of *Limonium companyonis*.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Ines Schönberger of the Plant Information Service, Landcare Research Ltd, Lincoln, for assistance with identification (confirmed by Peter Heenan) and for checking CHR records.

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Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Glenny, D.S.; Breitwieser, I., Brownsey, P.J.; Ogle, C.C. 1999. Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms, and pteridophytes naturalised or casual in New Zealand: additional records 1997-1998. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 37*: 629-642.

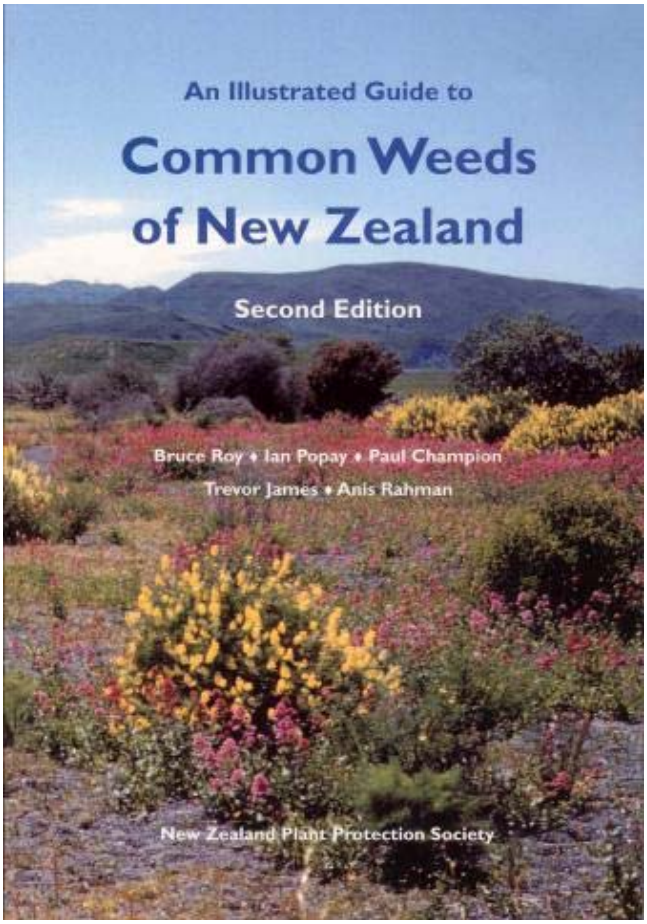
Book review:
An illustrated guide to the common weeds of New Zealand

Mike Wilcox

This attractive book describes and illustrates 320 species of weeds in New Zealand – mainly introduced plants, but also a few natives as well. Grasses, sedges and rushes are only summarily treated. The arrangement of the species is alphabetical by family, and alphabetical by genus, as in Flora Vol. IV – good on them! The plant descriptions include notes on habitat and distribution, and mention is made of allied species. There is a colour flower guide to species, a glossary, and references.

The illustrations, descriptions, and species coverage are good, so the book should be useful anywhere in New Zealand for identifying the main weeds encountered on wasteland and road edges, in fields and gardens, and also the environmental weeds of wetlands and disturbed bush.

An illustrated guide to the common weeds of New Zealand by B. Roy, I. Popay, P. Champion, T. James, A. Rahman.
(second edition), 314 pages. 2004. New Zealand Plant Protection Society, Lincoln.



Acknowledgements
Ewen Cameron and Peter de Lange for editing assistance with this journal.