



British Ecological Society

Australian and New Zealand Mosses

The Mosses of the Yarrangobilly Caves District, New South Wales. by V. F. Brotherus; W. W. Watts; On Some Mosses of New Zealand. by H. N. Dixon

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(*Danthonia Raoulii*) is badly eaten, possibly by wild horses as well as by rabbits and pigs. The pigs are particularly destructive in many places, attacking especially plants with starchy rhizomes and bulbs; the native arrowroot fern (*Marattia fraxinea*) is being fast killed out by pigs on account of its large starchy rhizome, and these animals feed on fruits which are extremely poisonous and left alone by most other animals, though they cause partial paralysis of the hind legs in the pigs themselves. Omitting the grasses, the native plants which find most favour with herbivorous animals appear to be those belonging to the families Cruciferae, Umbelliferae, Araliaceae, Violaceae, Malvaceae, Tiliaceae, Rubiaceae, Primulaceae, Leguminosae, Chenopodiaceae, and in a smaller degree Compositae, Liliaceae, Juncaceae, and Cyperaceae; but doubtless many other non-poisonous native plants supply either normally or in times of scarcity food for animals. Cattle and sheep, though having their preferences, will eat most ferns, any shrubs, and the seedlings of forest trees when food is scarce; in small clumps of bush the undergrowth is sometimes completely destroyed.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOSSES

- (I) **Brotherus, V. F., and Watts, W. W.** "The mosses of the Yarrangobilly Caves district, New South Wales." *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales*, 1912, Abstract, p. 4.
- (II) **Dixon, H. N.** "On some mosses of New Zealand." *Journ. Linn. Soc., Bot.*, **40**, 1912, pp. 433—459.

These two papers are of interest from the phytogeographical standpoint, on account of their bearing upon the composition of the Australasian moss flora.

(I) An account of a large collection of mosses made in the Yarrangobilly Caves district, New South Wales; 10 new species are described, and of the species enumerated many are new to this colony. The chief feature of the collection is the evidence it supplies of affinity to the flora of Tasmania and to that of the Australian Alps. The geology of the district is dealt with.

(II) An account of mosses collected in the North and South Islands of New Zealand during the visit of the "Nimrod" of the British Antarctic Expedition (1907—9) and of others sent by various collectors from different parts of the islands. The moss-flora of New Zealand, like that of the higher plants, may be divided generally into three categories:—(1) Malay-Australian, (2) Endemic, (3) Antarctic-Fuegian. Assuming that species common to Tasmania (or Australia) and New Zealand have migrated from the former region to the latter, the author's list shows an addition of three species to the first category (exclusive of more or less cosmopolitan species here recorded for the first time) in plants hitherto known only from Tasmania or continental Australia. The five new species described form an addition to the extensive endemic flora of the Islands; while in two cases at least—the subgenus *Holodontium* (represented by the new species *Dicranum Mackayi*) and *Dicranoweisia antarctica*—we have a very interesting addition to the floral links between New Zealand and the Antarctic and Fuegian regions.

VEGETATION OF ISLE ROYALE, LAKE SUPERIOR

- Cooper, W. S.** "The climax forest of Isle Royale, Lake Superior, and its development." *Bot. Gazette*, **55**, 1913, pp. 1—44, 115—140, 189—235, 1 map, 55 figures.

This is an important study of the plant-covering of a large island in Lake Superior, now dominated by forest, and of the lines of succession leading up to the final or climax forest stage. The author has not only made excellent use of the various methods of ecological study followed by other investigators of the vegetation of a relatively small area, but has introduced various fruitful ideas regarding plant succession based upon his own detailed studies, besides developing and emphasising various concepts which have probably never before been worked out so carefully.