Flora of New Zealand. Vol II.* With this second volume the account of the vascular plants native to New Zealand is completed, with the exception of the grasses, which will be treated in a separate volume. A fourth volume will cover the adventive flora.

This volume has the same format and is about the same size as the first, Since considerably fewer species are included, it has been possible to use much thicker paper, making the book less troublesome to use. An interval of only ten years has separated the two volumes, during which a succession of preliminary papers has been published by the two authors. In the more important of these Dr Moore revised *Bulbinella*, *Astelia* and *Collosperum*, and Dr Edgar *Juncus* and *Luzula*. This practice, which was not adopted during the production of the first volume, has kept New Zealand botanists in touch with the progress being made, and provided them with an opportunity to comment on proposed changes. Consequently, the treatment now appearing contains few novelties. Perhaps the greatest, at generic level, is the recognition, following the recent work of Blake, of the Cyperaceous genera *Machaerina* Vahl, *Baumea* Gaud., *Tetraria* Beauv. and *Morelotia* Gaud.

In addition to the systematic treatment of the monocotyledons, the volume contains a continuation of the list of references to the botanical literature of New Zealand up to 1969. A new feature is a list of chromosome numbers which covers dicotyledons as well as monocotyledons. The last fourteen pages are taken up with textual corrections to the first volume.

Many of the monocotyledonous families of the temperate northern hemisphere occur in New Zealand, notable absentees being Alismataceae and Butomaceae. The ranges of several mainly tropical families, such as Palmae and Pandanaceae, extend as far as the South Island, but the great family Araceae, which tolerates temperate climates in other parts of the world, has no representative. Predominantly southern families are the Centrolepidaceae and the Philesiaceae, both spanning the South Pacific, and the Restionaceae, mainly found in Africa and Australia. The few endemic genera — *Iphegenia* (Liliaceae), *Sporadanthus* (Restionaceae), *Aporostylis* (Orchidaceae), *Desmoschoenus* (Cyperaceae) — are all monotypic. Other very local genera are *Xeronema* (also in New Caledonia), *Phormium* (also in Norfolk Island) and *Herpolirion* (also in Tasmania and south-east Australia).

Although the list of families allocated to each author is very unequal, their contributions are, in fact, approximately equal in volume. Both are to be congratulated on their accuracy and the scholarly presentation of their material. Their taxonomic treatment is consistent, their keys are practical, and the annotations in small print record essential information. The impression gained is that, with this decade of careful study, New Zealand taxonomy has entered a new phase.

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* Flora of New Zealand, Vol. 2. Moore, L. B. & Edgar, E. Wellington, Govt. Printer, 1970. xl. + 354p. $4.50.