The Great Barrier and Matakana plants may be supposed, then, to have originated through recent long-distance dispersal, and be isolated individuals unlikely to represent permanent range extensions. The Dunedin locality I feel can hardly be due to dispersal, nor can it be relictual with so many suitable sites between it and the main population. A status of "alien native" i.e., an old planting or naturalization would seem to be much more likely and Dr Peter Johnson of Botany Division DSIR Dunedin tells me that the collections might have come from what is now known as Woodhaugh Gardens, a streamside bush reserve that does contain old planted natives (including Hymenanthera chathamica 6 m tall !).

Melicytus macrophyllus has been recorded from several offshore islands but all the so-named material I have seen (AK, WELT) is large-leaved mahoe, M. ramiflorus. A distinction between these species is the fine pubescence on the new growth of M. ramiflorus (x10 lens, best seen on the face of the stipules, also on petiole margins and stem); M. macrophyllus is completely glabrous. There are also some differences between the species which might interest a chemical taxonomist, namely the fragrance of drying M. macrophyllus leaves compared to the "leather and mutton fat" smell of M. ramiflorus, also the tendency of M. macrophyllus to stain its pressing paper and herbarium sheets.

The several specimens I have seen of mahoe from elsewhere in the Pacific (Kermadec Is., Norfolk I.) differ from N.Z. material in their lack of pubescence. Those who want to find some evolutionary explanation for this difference might also try to explain why a reversal of this pattern holds for M. (Hymenanthera) novae-zelandiae between Lord Howe Island and N.Z. (Green 1970).

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ROSES NATURALIZED IN AUCKLAND

R.O. Gardner

Two English shrub roses, sweet briar Rosa rubiginosa and dog rose R. canina were probably introduced to New Zealand early last century, being useful and decorative hedge plants and valued for the vitamin content of their fruits. Around Auckland they have persisted and naturalized in a few semi-rural or neglected places — sweet briar grows along old drystone walls and hawthorn hedges while dog rose is sometimes to be found in cemeteries (Symonds Street, St Lukes Mount Albert) where the older individuals have perhaps sprung from rootstock material.

Both species are relatively abundant in the dry scrub on the lava flats at Mount Wellington and Southdown. Sweet briar is the smaller of the two, with narrower curved thorns, and glandular-backed leaflets that smell of apple when crushed.

Several other roses have been recorded as naturalized in Auckland but these are perhaps no more than garden relics — there are no supporting AK specimens.

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