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New Zealand Hepaticae (Liverworts) XIX
Adelanthus Mitten, a New Zealand Genus

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Summary

THE validity of *Adelanthus falcatus* (Hook.) Mitt. as generic type is discussed. A key and notes on the species of *Adelanthus* are provided. *Calyptrocolea* Schust. is reduced to synonymy under *Adelanthus* and *Jungermannia oclusa* Hook. & Tayl. is transferred to *Adelanthus*. Four species are recognised for the genus in New Zealand.

ADELANTHUS Mitt.

CALYPTROCOLEA Schust.

The generic name of *Adelanthus* was initially bestowed by Mitten (1864) on *Jungermannia falcata* Hook. (1818), a plant from Dusky Sound collected by Dr Archibald Menzies in 1791. This is indisputable. (See Hodgson 1965.)

Surely therefore, Schuster's "logical" suppositions and interpretations of International Rules (1966) can be of no avail in his attempt to supplant this generic type by *Jungermannia decipiens* Hook., and to relegate our *Adelanthus* species to "Calyptrocolea"; Mitten's *Adelanthus* must stand as a New Zealand genus and "Calyptrocolea" reduced to synonymy.

It is unfortunate that Mitten, prone to mistakes as he was, should ever have listed *Jungermannia decipiens* (with a perianth) in his genus *Adelanthus*.

Perhaps it is not superfluous to quote Hooker's Handbook description of *Adelanthus*, referring as it does to *A. falcatus*, . . . "Stems erect from a creeping rhizome, branched. Leaves succubous, distichous, vertical, the dorsal margin decurrent. Stipules O. Fruit terminal on short ventral branchlets, concealed at the bases of the branches. Involucral leaves 3-farious, perianth tubular . . ."

It was not for Hooker to know that the tubular "perianth" was in fact a calyptra, nor, I suspect did Mitten know either, but Hooker added that the fructification was very brittle and difficult to examine in a dry state.

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