

A few months later, on 17 August, the *Comte de Paris* arrived at Akaroa with the settlers of the Nanto-Bordelaise company. The surgeon on the escorting warship *l'Aube* was E. F. A. Raoul (1815–52) who remained based at Akaroa until 11 January 1843, being attached to *l'Aube* until 26 January 1842 and on its recall, transferring to *l'Allier*. Between voyages to Russell and to Sydney Raoul made an extensive collection of plants on Banks Peninsula. He published a preliminary account of his new species in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* in 1844, and this was followed in 1846 by his beautifully produced “*Choix de Plantes de la Nouvelle Zélande*” which gives detailed descriptions of 44 species including those in his earlier paper and some mentioned for the first time. Thirty-three of the species are magnificently illustrated.

The majority of Raoul's species are still accepted, and Akaroa or Banks Peninsula are thus the type localities for several well known native plants. It is fitting that two of these species, which are probably now confined to the Peninsula, were named after Frenchmen. *Hebe lavaudiana* commemorates Captain Lavaud of *l'Aube*, and *Celmisia mackaui* is named after Admiral Baron de Mackau, the minister responsible for the French Navy and colonies at that time. Raoul's other recognised taxa from Akaroa are: *Adiantum fulvum* Raoul, *Arthropodium candidum* Raoul, *Chionochloa rigida* (Raoul) Zotov, *Clematis foetida* Raoul, *Coprosma robusta* Raoul, *Corokia cotoneaster* Raoul, *Discaria toumatou* Raoul, *Elaeocarpus hookerianus* Raoul, *Griselinia littoralis* Raoul, *Gunnera monoica* Raoul, *Helichrysum glomeratum* (Raoul) Benth. et Hook. f., *Hoheria angustifolia* Raoul, *Lophomyrtus obcordata* (Raoul) Burret, *Microlaena avenacea* (Raoul) Hook. f., *Notodanthonia unarede* (Raoul) Zotov, *Olearia avicenniaefolia* (Raoul) Hook. f., *Parsonia capsularis* (Forst. f.) R.Br. var. *rosea* (Raoul) Ckn., *Pittosporum obcordatum* Raoul, *Potamogeton ochreatus* Raoul, *Potentilla anserinoides* Raoul, *Pseudowintera colorata* (Raoul) Dandy, *Senecio lagopus* Raoul, *Senecio sciadophilus* Raoul, *Uncinia leptostachya* Raoul, and *Uncinia rupestris* Raoul. The genus *Raoulia* was also described by Hooker from specimens in this collection.

In addition to flowering plants and ferns the records in the *Flora Novae-Zelandiae* show that Raoul also collected mosses, liverworts, seaweeds, fungi and lichens at Akaroa.

#### EARLY RESIDENTS AND VISITING BOTANISTS

The first British botanist in Canterbury was Dr David Lyall (1817–95), who had been co-botanist with J. D. Hooker in the antarctic voyage of the *Erebus* and *Terror* and who returned to New Zealand as surgeon on *H.M.S. Acheron*, which surveyed parts of the coast between 1847 and 1851. The *Acheron* arrived at Akaroa from Wellington on about 21 February 1849, and was in Canterbury waters until 9 April. After a short visit to Dunedin the vessel returned to Akaroa and left for Wellington on 28 April.

Three main excursions were made by *Acheron* parties.

1. Mr Strange, one of the naturalists, explored to the westward from 4 to 10 March 1849, and climbed on to Mount Torlesse. He has left a graphic description of extensive landslides on the mountain, which he considered caused by the same earthquake which had recently damaged Wellington. Strange added: “To my disappointment, I found that the specimens I was in search of were not procurable at this point of my journey, although could I have proceeded twenty miles further to the westward, I doubt not that I should have found them.” “The only new things I got today were two species of *lepidoptera*, three species of *helix*, and a fern.” (Strange, 1850).