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David John Galloway 1942–2014, a life with lichens

David Galloway was born on 7 May 1942 in Invercargill on the southernmost coast of New Zealand, where he spent his early years before entering the University of Otago in Dunedin to study natural sciences, completing his studies with a PhD in biochemistry in 1972. During this time, David came into contact with James Murray, a senior lecturer in chemistry with a keen interest in lichens, who was unfortunately killed in a car crash shortly after their meeting; a year later, the university invited Peter James, the principal lichenologist at the Natural History Museum in London, to spend six months organizing Murray's lichen herbarium. It is through these coincidences that David became involved in lichenology, and in 1973 he received a Commonwealth Fellowship, which gave him the opportunity to research at the Natural History Museum with Peter James. However, David, who had switched from chemistry to botany in 1972, remained on the staff of the Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) at Lincoln, New Zealand until 1982, although he spent all of this time overseas.

When David started his exciting work at the Natural History Museum in January 1973 he was offered a spacious bay in the lichen herbarium, a place he would occupy for many years. Standing in front of an enormous table covered with piles of herbarium material, reprints, books and manuscripts, he greeted each of us (IK & MRDS) whenever we visited with his usual warmth. The first London years proved a promising start to an international career; already in the late summer of 1973 David was accompanying Peter James to the first International Association of Lichenology (IAL) meeting arranged as an excursion in the Alps. There he met up with a large number of energetic lichenologists, such as Irwin Brodo, Ana Crespo, Rosemarie Honegger, Klaus Kalb, Hannes Hertel, Xavier Llimona, Josef Poelt, Ulrik Søchting and Volkmar Wirth, many of whom were already well-known and successful academics. Similarly, in April 1974, the memorable 'Progress and Problems in Lichenology' meeting at Bristol attracted a very wide international attendance of leading lichenologists who would prove to be important in David's future career.

During his time at the Natural History Museum, David cooperated with many scientists abroad, which resulted in many new projects. His wife Patricia's international career as an opera singer influenced David's decision to stay on in London and search for a position there after his Fellowship ended. He was successful in these plans, being appointed as a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Botany at the Natural History Museum from 1982 to 1987, and from 1987 to 1994 held the post of Principal Scientific Officer and Head of the Lichen Division. He was enormously productive during this period, with an impressive record of publications, including the first edition of the *Flora of New Zealand Lichens*. In 1987, in connection with the International Botanical Congress in Berlin, David was elected as President of the IAL (see *Bibliotheca Lichenologica* **108**: 8–9); he was very proud to succeed Mason Hale, at that time a senior scientist at the Smithsonian Institution, whom he admired very much for his outstanding contributions to lichenology.

David was involved in several meetings connected with the IAL, particularly between 1987 and 1992 when he was its President. David was charismatic, as demonstrated in his role as organizer, convener and speaker for the London meeting on 'Tropical Lichens' in 1989. During the mycological meeting in Regensburg in 1989 he approached one of us (IK) to become his

successor as IAL President. David also played a leading role at the IAL meeting in Sweden in 1992, thoroughly enjoying every minute of it, especially the visit to Acharius's house in Vadstena.

During his 22 years at the Natural History Museum, David made significant contributions to lichenology, mainly through his publications which covered not only the systematics and biogeography of lichens, but also the history of lichenology. Some measure of this can be gained from volume 95 of *Bibliotheca Lichenologica*, published on the occasion of his 65th birthday in 2007, where an impressive list of 319 publications (compiled by Lars Arvidsson) includes seminal works such as the *Flora of New Zealand Lichens* (1985), *Tropical Lichens: their Systematics, Conservation, and Ecology* (1991, symposium volume), *New Zealand Lichens, Checklist, Key and Glossary* (1997, with W. M. Malcolm) and numerous monographs.

In 1994 David seemed to have come to a turning point in his professional life as an international scientist at the Natural History Museum in London. At the age of 52, he still had much to contribute, but was unwilling to continue on the relatively low salary paid to museum staff when set against the high cost of living in London and with the exhaustive four hours of travelling each day by the suffocating transportation system. His wife Patricia was also beginning to cut down on her stage performances, finding her glamorous operatic life increasingly exhausting. David therefore resigned, and he and Patricia decided to return New Zealand. Their new home, which they named 'The Retreat', was in Roxburgh, along the River Clutha in the wilderness of central Otago, on the South Island. Here David started work as a consultant lichenologist, but after a few years he was offered a position as an associated researcher at Landcare Research in Dunedin, which once again involved him in lengthy commuting; this and an excessive work load slowly led to health problems, and it became necessary to move to a place closer to medical services in the vicinity of his work at Landcare. Here Patricia and David found a new home in the lovely town of Dunedin.

In 2008, we could all see the result of his hard labour when the 2-volume second revised edition of the *Flora of New Zealand Lichens, Lichen-forming and Lichenicolous Fungi* was published; this impressive work, comprising 2261 pages (including a bibliography of 181 pages), treated 1707 taxa and 354 genera. This project had its origins during David's time in London when, with Peter James, a detailed study of New Zealand lichens was initiated in 1973. For this, and many other important contributions to lichenology, David was awarded the 'Acharius Medal' by the IAL, followed in 2010 by the 'Hutton Medal' for excellence in plant sciences by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

David greatly enjoyed correspondence and numerous people around the world undoubtedly hold enormous collections of his colourful, usually rather long, very kind, polite and informative letters – and always very enjoyable to read. Often he would start by describing the season, reporting how the flowers in his garden were developing; next one would be regaled by a long and detailed discussion on papers more or less prepared for publication, and maybe a complication that had arisen regarding types based on old material; perhaps mention would be made of colleagues who had left us, obituaries to write and talks to give in memorial services, but being a gentleman, he rarely criticized colleagues when discussing problems in lichenology. A typical answer to a communication might be "thank you so much for your very lovely letter, which I read out to Patricia and which we both enjoyed very much...".



David Galloway during the Nordic Lichen Society excursion to Vadstena 2013, here sitting in Acharius' garden. Photo: Jan Ingar Båtvik.

During the late summer of 2013, we (IK, MRDS & AT) organized a meeting for the Nordic Lichen Society in Sweden where 35 participants from 11 countries attended, among them David, who had

travelled all the way from Dunedin to visit the lovely historic town of Vadstena associated with Acharius at the eastern shore of Lake Vättern in order to meet up with friends and colleagues again. As always, he presented an invaluable and incisive talk on the friendship and lichenological progress developed through letters between Erik Acharius and Olof Swartz, subsequently published in *Graphis Scripta* 26. In all his publications, David's approach was thorough, and in this particular case we know that he had made an enormous effort to locate and copy all of the known letters between the two correspondents. The lecture was greatly appreciated by everybody, particularly the young participants, who had the pleasure of meeting this remarkable authority from New Zealand who clearly showed how much he enjoyed taking part in a meeting in a Swedish cultural centre surrounded by a landscape with environmental and historical landmarks that had little changed since the time of Linneaus's last pupil, Erik Acharius. On a late summer morning on August 15, we all said goodbye to our dear friend David before Lars Arvidsson took him to the local train station, from where he went to Uppsala to spend some additional time working on the rich collection of historical specimens and documents housed there. His plans for a 'History of Lichenology' involving several lichenologists, including one of us (MRDS), had only just started and his loss to such a project will be profound.

David Galloway died on 6 December 2014 at Otago Community Hospice, Dunedin, after a rather short period of illness, aged 72 years. He will be sorely missed by his family, especially his beloved wife Patricia. Long will he be remembered by many friends and colleagues, and his work enjoyed and referred to by many for years to come.

Ingvar Kärnefelt, Mark R. D. Seaward and Arne Thell