

# Christian Gottlieb Ferdinand Hochstetter (1829 – 1884)

Christian Gottlieb Ferdinand Hochstetter was born on 30 April 1829 in Esslingen, Germany, the son of Christian Ferdinand Hochstetter, a clergyman, professor and naturalist, and his second wife Sophie Orth. Since the 17th century there had been clerics, jurists, state officials and naturalists in the family, and after taking the state examinations at Esslingen Lyceum, Ferdinand took a similar path. He studied theology, and also took courses in natural science at Tübingen University, graduating doctor of philosophy (with a thesis in mineralogy) in 1852, and gaining a state scholarship to travel in Europe. In Vienna in 1853 he was seconded to the Austrian survey working in Bohemia, and in 1856 was admitted to the University of Vienna as a lecturer. The following year he was appointed geologist to the *Novara* expedition, a global voyage of scientific exploration under the auspices of the Austrian government. At Capetown, George Grey encouraged a visit by the frigate to New Zealand.

The *Novara* berthed in Auckland on 22 December 1858, and Hochstetter and Julius Haast, another new arrival from Germany, soon got to know each other. At the request of the New Zealand government, Hochstetter, Haast and others surveyed the Drury coalfield. The Provincial Council persuaded the commander of the *Novara* to allow Hochstetter to remain to undertake further surveys in the province, and for the next five months Hochstetter, with Haast and a support team, visited much of the central North Island. On completion of his mapping, he was asked to report on the mineral wealth of the Nelson province, and again with Haast, arrived by ship in Nelson on 4 August 1859, after a brief call at New Plymouth. They examined Dun Mountain, where Hochstetter collected and subsequently named dunitite, the Aorere goldfields and other places of interest; colonists presented fossils for examination, and Julius Haast and Christopher Maling excavated moa bones from Aorere valley.

Hochstetter left Nelson for Sydney on 1 October 1859 on the first leg of his return to Europe. For the next ten years he worked on the collections and data of the *Novara* expedition, concurrently fulfilling his duties as professor of mineralogy and geology at the Vienna Polytechnic Institute. In Vienna on 2 April 1861 he married Georgiana Bengough, daughter of an English director of the Vienna city gasworks; they had four sons and four daughters. To augment his salary he wrote textbooks. In 1872 he was engaged as a natural science tutor to Crown Prince Rudolf and in 1876 he was appointed the first director of the Imperial

Natural History Museum. He received many honours from European scientific communities, a knighthood from Württemberg in 1860, and in 1884 a hereditary knighthood from the Austrian emperor. Christian Gottlieb Ferdinand von Hochstetter died at Oberdöbling, near Vienna, on 18 July 1884.

Primarily a geologist, Hochstetter also took a keen interest in botany, zoology and ethnology. Although he never returned, he remained an advocate of New Zealand, where his contributions are commemorated by place names and the scientific names of New Zealand organisms, including Hochstetter's frog *Leiopelma hochstetteri*, takahē or swamp-hen *Porphyrio hochstetteri*, a carnivorous land snail *Powelliphanta hochstetteri* and the sky-blue toadstool *Entoloma hochstetteri*.



## ***Entoloma hochstetteri***

*Entoloma* (Greek *entos* 'within'; *loma* 'border of a robe') is a genus of fungi with no obvious veil. The pinkish spores, which usually give a near brick-colour print, are angular in outline when seen under a microscope, and define this large family of small to medium toadstools. Over 50 species are described from New Zealand. *Entoloma hochstetteri* is pale to dark blue in colour, fading with age. The cap can be pointed in shape or rounded at the apex. It grows in soil or moss in the forest, under broadleaf trees or podocarps. Several other conical *Entoloma* species have different colouring.