

William McLagan Malcolm (1936 –)

William McLagan Malcolm was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, on 6 February 1936, the third son of John Albert Malcolm and Rebecca Mast Malcolm née Barkley. His Scottish great-grandfather John Malcolm, a journeyman shoemaker in the village of Meikleour, Perthshire, and his wife Isabella née McLagan, emigrated in 1873 with their five young sons and settled in Indiana County, USA in 1876. William (Bill) is the grandson and namesake of their fourth child, who was three years old when they left Scotland.

After his early schooling in the Pittsburgh area, Bill studied at Williams College, a private liberal arts facility in Massachusetts (BA 1957) and Michigan State University (MSc 1959, PhD 1962). He also held teaching and research positions in physiological ecology at Albion College in Michigan, and Rutgers University, New Jersey. In 1958 he married Nancy Gopel, who had a Master of Arts in ceramics, and their daughters Susan, Stacey and Sabrina were born in 1959, 1960 and 1962.

In 1971 the family moved to New Zealand, bought a hill country farm near Nelson and for ten years raised cattle, planted trees and made raku and stoneware pottery, before moving to Nelson. They explored the mountains of the Nelson area, and shared their botanical knowledge and photographic expertise via the publication of *New Zealand Alpine Plants* (1988) and *The Forest Carpet* (1989). For their *New Zealand Lichens* (2000), an up-to-date general interest guide with over 300 photographs and line drawings, and *Mosses and Other Bryophytes: an illustrated glossary* (2000) they ventured into self-publishing as Micro-Optics Press.

California Mosses, co-authored with Jim Shervock and Dan Norris, followed in 2006. Bill has also published about thirty papers in peer-reviewed journals, an interactive key and five illustrated keys, variously co-authored with leading experts in their fields.

When the three-page "Australasian Lichenological Newsletter" first appeared in August 1976 Bill was on the initial editorial board, and its evolution into today's high-quality scientific journal *Australasian Lichenology* is due to his publishing skills and equipment. At the 2007 World Conference in Bryology in Kuala Lumpur the greatly enlarged second edition of *Mosses and Other Bryophytes* earned Bill and Nancy Malcolm the prestigious Hattori Prize, awarded biennially by the International Association of Bryology for the best bryological publication in the preceding two years.

Malcolmiella, a genus of about ten taxa, with one species (*Malcolmiella cinereovirens*) recorded from New Zealand, was described by Czech lichenologist Antonin Vězda, who spent three weeks in New Zealand in 1997. It was named for lichenologist Dr W M (Bill) Malcolm, in recognition of his major contributions to the knowledge of New Zealand's lichen mycobiota, especially of foliicolous and crustose lichens, and in particular as a lichen photographer and artist. Two lichen species, *Phyllopsora malcolmii* (Vězda) known only from one locality in Nelson, and *Xanthoparmelia malcolmii* (Elix), a little known lichen on rocks in open subalpine scrub in South Canterbury, are also named after him.

Xanthoparmelia malcolmii

Xanthoparmelia malcolmii (was *Neofuscelia malcolmii*) is a foliose lichen forming irregular rosettes 3–6 cm in diameter, with flat, radiating, branched lobes 1–3 mm wide, usually wider at or near the margins, narrowing centrally; the upper surface dark-brown to brown-black and the underside pale-tan, a feature that distinguishes it from three somewhat similar species. They are also distinguished chemically. *Xanthoparmelia malcolmii* is found on rocks in open subalpine to alpine heath or scrub in a few localities in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park and the Torlesse Range, South Canterbury.

