

Lucy Beatrice Moore (1906 – 1987)

Of Scottish and English descent, Lucy Moore was born in Warkworth on 14 July 1906, the fifth of Janet Morrison and Harry Blomfield Moore's eight children. As well as producing fruit and poultry on their farm Huamara, Harry was a naturalist and the local librarian, and Lucy grew up in an environment of books, bush and coast. After attending primary school at Warkworth, she went as a day student to Epsom Girls' Grammar School, where her excellence in languages and science earned her a junior scholarship. She enrolled at Auckland University College in 1925, and in 1929 graduated MSc with first-class honours, with a thesis on the root parasite *Dactylanthus*.

As joint holders of the Duffus Lubecki Research Scholarship, Lucy and her friend Lucy Cranwell - the "two Lucys" - made extensive field studies of mountain vegetation and marine ecology in the Coromandel Range, Hen and Chickens and Three Kings island groups, and wrote joint papers that are still highly regarded. During their travels they met and forged valued friendships with other botanists, both in New Zealand and overseas, when they attended botanical congresses in London and Amsterdam.

In 1938, after several years as a university demonstrator in zoology, Lucy Moore joined the Botany Division of the DSIR in Wellington. During the Second World War she studied marine algae, assessing local seaweeds for agar, previously supplied by Japan, and organised children on the east coast to collect seaweeds containing it. She maintained an interest in algae, and later worked

with botanical artist Nancy Adams to produce *Plants of the New Zealand Coast* (1963). After the war she undertook major research on the depleted tussock grasslands of Molesworth Station, and in 1955 she was assigned to assist H H Allan in a reference work on the New Zealand flora. A move to Lincoln, where Botany Division had relocated, coincided with work on the second volume, co-written with Elizabeth Edgar. Officially retiring as senior botanist in 1971, Lucy remained active at Lincoln until 1980, and in 1978 produced, with artist J B Irwin, the *Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants*. During her career of more than forty years Lucy specialised in marine algae, mosses and lichens as well as the higher plants, in her chosen fields of taxonomy and ecology, and her contributions to science were recognised by an MBE and many other prestigious honours.

She returned to the family home at Warkworth in 1980 to care for her surviving brother, and took an active part in local historical, cultural and conservation issues. A stalwart of the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch botanical societies, she maintained a lively interest in local botany, leading field trips and encouraging local enthusiasts, and was especially good with children. She never married, but Huamara was always open house to her wide circle of family and friends. Lucy Moore died at an Orewa rest home on 9 June 1987, but will live on in the fond memories of all those who knew her, in her published works that will continue to be consulted, and the several plants named after her, including a hebe, an iris and the rare northern moss *Tortella mooreae*.

Tortella mooreae

Tortella ('twisted screw', from the Latin *tortus* 'twisted'; *ella*, an ornamental diminutive suffix) describes the twisted peristome teeth of this nearly world-wide genus of 53 moss species, a few of which are found in New Zealand. *Tortella mooreae*, described by moss researcher G O K Sainsbury of Hawkes Bay, honours Lucy Moore, who first collected it. Known from a number of sites just above the high tide mark around the Rangitoto foreshore, and on a few islands in the Poor Knights group, it is a halophyte ('salt plant'), one of the few mosses that can survive on rocky coastal sites. Yellow-green, it is closely related to *Tortella flavovirens*, which also grows on exposed coastal rock, but always further back from the shoreline than *Tortella mooreae*.

