

Two names to which cultivars of New Zealand plants may be attributed

J.D. ARMITAGE

Botany Department, RHS Garden Wisley

The flora of New Zealand is rich in taxonomically complex groups and over the years a great number of redundant names have been generated through attempts to classify the anomalous forms and intermediate entities that are encountered. Some names, such as *Olearia* × *haastii*, *Lophomyrtus* × *ralphii* and *Rubus* × *barkeri*, initially published as new species, remain with us as hybrid binomials. Attention is drawn here to two further epithets that, though they have fallen into obsolescence, are available as hybrid names.

Pittosporum × *intermedium* Kirk, *Trans. & Proc. NZ Inst.* 4: 266, 1871
Type specimen in K.

Pittosporum intermedium Kirk was described in 1872 from a single small tree growing on Kawau Island off the North Island of New Zealand. Though considering it a “well-marked form”, Kirk speculated that it may have been the product of hybridisation as it combined the foliage of a large form of *P. tenuifolium* with characters of the capsule comparable to *P. crassifolium* or *P. ellipticum*. By the time his *Forest Flora of New Zealand* was published in 1889, however, Kirk had decided it was simply a form of *P. tenuifolium*, although he later recognised it as a species in its own right (Kirk, 1899), as did Allan (1961). Cheeseman (1925) considered the idea that the plant was a hybrid with *P. ellipticum* but dismissed it because that species is absent from Kawau Island. More recently the matter was put to rest when Bartlett (1984) compared specimens of *P. intermedium* with hybrids between *P. crassifolium* and *P. tenuifolium* growing in Auckland and pronounced this its true origin. *Pittosporum* ‘Craxten’ is a vigorous and attractive female clone that arose at County Park Nursery in 1980 from a chance cross between *P. crassifolium* ‘Variegatum’ and *P. tenuifolium* (Hutchins, 2003). The name *P.* × *intermedium* Kirk can be applied to this cultivar and to other plants of the same parentage, which Metcalf (1987) states arise freely in cultivation.

Metrosideros* × *subtomentosa Carse, *Trans. & Proc. NZ Inst.* **57**: 92, 1927

Allan (1961) has typified this name on a herbarium specimen in CHR.

Carse (1927) published his "*× Metrosideros sub-tomentosa*" based on plants intermediate between *M. excelsa* and *M. robusta* that grew at Lake Taupo, Whau Creek and Titirangi. Hybrids between the two species often occur where they meet and a selection made by Auckland nurseryman Graham Platts from a population growing on Great Barrier Island has been named 'Mistral'. This cultivar can be attributed to *M. × subtomentosa* Carse and a close examination of cultivars currently attributed to *M. excelsa* may show that other clones also belong here.

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