



**Rosemary C. HENDERSON
(1942-2012)**

Rosa published her first taxonomic scale insect paper in 1994 (on the eriococcid genus *Eriochiton*). Since then, in less than 20 years, she has published about 35 papers, mainly on the scale insects of New Zealand, introducing 17 new genera (5 eriococcid, 4 diaspidid and 8 coccid) and 62 new species (17 eriococcid, 17 diaspidid, 17 coccid and 1 pseudococcid). In so doing, she revolutionised our knowledge on New Zealand scale insects and was in the process of doing further revisions at the time of her sudden death. Thus, over a fairly short period of time, she had built up an enviable record and had become an important and valued member of the scale insect community. Her loss therefore came as a huge shock to everyone. Although she had fallen and broken her hip three months earlier, followed by a broken arm, her death was totally unexpected and so the loss was felt not just by her family but also by the wider coccidological community.

Rosa was born on the 1st June, 1942, the youngest of four children, and spent her formative years on the family farm on the Banks Peninsular in South Island, New Zealand. She told us that this was a very happy time and we feel sure her love of the countryside and wild places originated from this period. She then went to the University of Canterbury where she obtained two things. Firstly, a Bachelor of Science degree in 1965, and secondly her future husband! Rumour has it that she had a choice of two men and chose Graeme! This was clearly an excellent and happy choice as they went on to have four daughters and remained a close unit until the time of her death. Initially she worked as a researcher for the Cancer Society Research Unit in Christchurch Hospital but the family then moved to Auckland as Graeme obtained a post in Television Broadcasting. There they bought a wonderful house on a steep slope in Glen Eden overlooking a valley, which is still the family home. Visitors were always made very welcome and could relax in the swimming pool or on the verandah overlooking their much-loved garden.

Once the children allowed, Rosa obtained a post as a research technician working for the DSIR at Mt. Albert. It was whilst she was working in Mt. Albert that she began to take a serious interest in scale insects. Rosa curated the New Zealand Arthropod Collection and this collection now has an enviable number of her beautiful slides. It is always a pleasure to find oneself studying specimens mounted by Rosa. She also worked on whiteflies and, because of the specialist skills she had acquired, assisted several other scientists at Landcare in their research. Thus, her very first scientific papers were as co-author (with Garry Hill) on topics associated with chemical and biological control (on artificial diets for the coccinellid *Chilocorus*, the use of hydrogen cyanamide to control the diaspidid *Hemiberlesia lataniae*, and the introduction of a preda-

tory mite to control *H. lataniae*), and this co-operation with fellow workers continued after she had started working on scale insects, co-authoring a paper on entomopathogenic fungi in 2005.

However, it is as a scale insect taxonomist on New Zealand fauna that she will leave her legacy. She made major impacts on the families Eriococcidae, Coccidae and Diaspididae, and was author or co-author of three Fauna of New Zealand series, a feat few others have achieved. The Coccoidea of New Zealand must be amongst the best known in the World, and this is almost entirely due to her determination and stickability. She quite obviously became totally fascinated by scale insects and was a very fine slide maker, photographer, illustrator and an excellent field collector. Indeed, most of the new species she described were collected by her whilst out in the field on (rather slow!) walks, sometimes helped by her husband Graeme.

However, in addition to her taxonomic work, Rosa will be remembered as a person. Rosa also enjoyed gardening, both flowers and vegetables. She also loved scuba diving and she and Graeme went on many trips together diving around New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Rosa loved nature and particularly enjoyed walking in the Waitakeres (an area of woodland not far from Auckland) where she was always keen to see what was round the next corner and where she collected many of her new species. She was a member of the Forest and Bird Society and of the Entomological Society of New Zealand. She was a regular delegate at ISSIS.

Rosa was also an accomplished embroiderer and, indeed, this was a major part of her life and she belonged to the Auckland Embroiderers Guild for a time. Rosa was a strong and independent person but she also had a great softness about her and was an incredibly patient and caring women. One of her major qualities was her quiet determination which some might have called stubbornness but it was undoubtedly a quality that enabled her to achieve so much throughout her life.

Rosa is a huge loss in the lives of all who came in contact with her and she is sorely missed.

List of new genera and number of species described by Rosa

Family: Coccidae

Aphenochiton Henderson & Hodgson
8 species

Crystallotesta Henderson & Hodgson
2 species

Epelidochiton Henderson & Hodgson

Kalasis Henderson & Hodgson
1 species

Plumichiton Henderson & Hodgson
4 species

Poropeza Henderson & Hodgson
1 species

Pounamococcus Henderson & Hodgson
2 species

Umbonichiton Henderson & Hodgson
4 species

Family: Diaspididae

Anzaspis Henderson, 2011
1 species

Pellucidaspis Henderson, 2011 -

Pseudodonaspidis Henderson, 2011
1 species

Serenaspis Henderson, 2011

Family: Eriococcidae

Affeldococcus Henderson, 2007
1 species

Alpinococcus Henderson, 2007a
1 species

Bryococcus Henderson, 2007a

1 species

Hoheriococcus Henderson, 2006

1 species

Montanococcus Henderson, 2007a

3 species

In addition, Rosa described: **Coccidae**: 3 species of *Ctenochiton* Maskell; 2 species of *Lecanochiton* Maskell; **Diaspididae**: 2 species of *Leucaspis* Signoret; 12 species of *Poliaspis* Maskell, and 1 species of *Symeria* Green; and **Eriococcidae**: 5 species of *Eriochiton* Maskell; 3 species of *Eriococcus* Targioni Tozzetti; 1 species of *Kuwanina* Cockerell, and 1 species of *Stegococcus* Hoy. Rosa also had a species named after her: *Hoyiococcus hendersonae* Kozár & Williams.

Chris Hodgson

Department of Biodiversity and Biological Systematics, The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff,
CF10 3NP, Wales, UK.