

**PHYLOGENY AND BIOGEOGRAPHY OF *NEMATOCERAS* HOOK.F. (ORCHIDACEAE)
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR EXISTENCE ON NEW ZEALAND AND
AUSTRALIAN SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS**

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The orchid genus *Nematoceras* Hook.f is restricted to New Zealand and the Chatham, Auckland, Campbell and Macquarie Islands. Molecular phylogenetic studies of representative collections of all described and most undescribed taxa within the genus reveal a complex biogeography with several likely endemics present on the subantarctic islands. This data suggests that random independent introductions of seed of different New Zealand mainland parental species to these islands is the likely source for those species now present on these islands. The presence of other orchid genera, to those already reported, as well as additional *Nematoceras* species on these remote islands should not be discounted and further field studies and collections are required.