included at all. Any standard invertebrate zoology text would supply the same information.

Many of the shortcomings of the revised edition are no doubt attributable to its long gestation: the preface is dated 1971 but five more years elapsed before publication. It is not surprising therefore that the bibliography is rather archaic. It is surprising that none of the original references have been dropped, and few have been up-dated e.g. the 1963 revision of Goodey's "Soil and Freshwater Nematodes" itself now sadly outdated is ignored, as are the innumerable revisions of his how-to-do-it booklet. In a book where literature citations take up about a fifth of the space one could have expected much more care in selecting and up-dating them. It is surprising that "Journal of Soil Biology and Biochemistry" was not considered worthy of mention on p. 23.

The strength of this book lies in its concentration on what might be called the natural history of soil animals, especially of soil arthropods. Here the author is in his element. Much of what is said at a family level, is transferable (with caution) to the New Zealand scene but New Zealand workers will have to compile their own collection of local references.

This is no how-to-do-it book and the worker in search of techniques will need to consult the various symposia on soil biology that have appeared in recent years and the more specialized works such as the I.B.P. Handbooks. Similarly the student who merely wishes to identify soil organisms will be disappointed.

The modern role of such a book is problematical. It seems that soil biology has grown beyond this stage. This was a pioneering book originally written in pioneering days. I suspect the call today is for either thoroughly up-to-date, general accounts of broader scope, or equally up-to-date specialist treatments of processes, kinds of soil environment, or groups of soil organisms. It is a disadvantage of this book that despite the "Biology" of the title, fungi, bacteria and actinomycetes are ignored, and so too I feel is the soil itself. There is no adequate account of soil or of the soil as a habitat.

The book is well bound and printed, and is pleasingly free from misprints but its origin from a translation is still apparent. (What, I wonder, is the nature of a sapro-*phytic* nematode?) Like the first edition the second edition also lacks a subject index. The prime difficulty is that the book is an inadequately revised re-tread, and at approximately NZ$30 it's a fairly expensive retread.

W. C. Clark

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
New Zealand Ecological Society.

Dear Sir,

The calculations appearing in the last paragraph of my paper "Diet of the opossum" (*Trichosurus vulpecula* Kerr) on farmland northeast of Waverley, New Zealand", (Ecological Society Proceedings 20, 1973) are not correct. This has been kindly pointed out to me by Dr Eric Spurr (Forest Research Institute) who has given the following corrected version:

If each opossum eats 0.11 kg dry matter/day, then 43 opossums/ha eat 4.70 kg d.m./ha/day. If each sheep eats 3.50 kg dry matter/day, then 43 opossums/ha eat 4.70/3.50 kg = 1.34 sheep equivalents/ha. This contrasts with my calculation of 2.5 sheep equivalents/ha.

I am indebted to Dr Spurr for sorting out this error.

Yours, etc.
Alice E. Fitzgerald,
(Previously Alice E. Harvie)

CORRIGENDUM

WARDLE, P.; CAMPBELL, A. D. 1976. Seasonal cycle of tolerance to low temperatures in three native woody plants, in relation to their ecology and post-glacial history. *Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society* 23: 85-90.

On p. 87 of this paper the legend was incorrect for *Nothofagus s. cliffortioides* 1200 m. The correct notation for Fig. 1 (a) is:

.....	Nothofagus s. cliffortioides	1200 m
————	Nothofagus s. cliffortioides	800 m
—|—|—|—|—	Phylocladus alpinus	
————	Dacrydium bidwillii	