



Department of Botany
Te Tari Huaota o Otago

Tennant Lecture

Rapid evolution in introduced species:

Will introduced plant species eventually be accepted as unique native taxa?

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In moving thousands of species to new parts of the world, people inadvertently followed a near-perfect recipe for encouraging evolution of new species. Seventy percent of plant species introduced to Australia underwent significant morphological change following introduction, and reproductive isolation may develop between introduced and source populations. If we can't eradicate introduced species then inevitably they will evolve into unique new taxa. Should we accept these as new native species or try to exterminate them? I think acceptance of introduced species is a matter of time, but I have been called a witch for these ideas – bring on the arguments!

Wednesday 14 August | 6pm | Archway 1

