

## Comment

### *Nothofagus* fossils in Antarctica

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In our paper comparing the flora and vegetation of the southern Andes and New Zealand (Wardle et al. 2001), we drew attention to fossils of *Nothofagus* in Antarctica that, according to Webb & Harwood (1993), date from only three million years ago. We suggested that, if this is correct, Antarctica may have had a role in the dispersal of plants to Australasia and South America until the late Tertiary, citing *Hectorella* as a possible example. In doing so, we had overlooked that this had already been suggested by Mark & Adams (1995, p. 14). Moreover, the Pliocene age assigned to the Sirius Group that contains the *Nothofagus* fossils is contested, for instance, by Stroeven & Kleman (1999), who argue for an age of at least mid Miocene. This would not necessarily rule out a late Tertiary role for Antarctica in the dispersal of some austral herbaceous genera, but would make the Sirius Group *Nothofagus* fossils less relevant.

#### REFERENCES

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