



*Olearia waima.*



ringbarked by goats and browsed by possums. I have seen trees with piles of possum-ripped leaves beneath them.

There is no doubt that although goats pose the greatest threat, the combination of goat and possum damage has already been devastating. Damage now in some places is such that you find yourself climbing dry, naked faces with patches of rock pushing through the eroding soil. Hook wedges and adventive species find a suitable habitat under ghostly forests of sticks, while occasional terminal bunches of dying leaves are all that remain to tell that here once grew a flourishing *Olearia* forest.

Top Left: *Coprosma waima* which is found only in Waima forest, and in flower (left).