



Oceanic islands are storehouses for unique creatures. Zoologists have long been fascinated by island animals because they break all the rules. Speedy, nervous, little birds repeatedly evolve to become plump, tame, and flightless on islands. Equally strange and wonderful plants have evolved on islands. However, plants are very poorly understood relative to animals. Do plants repeatedly evolve similar patterns in dispersal ability, size, and defence on islands? This volume answers this question for the first time using a modern quantitative approach. It not only reviews the literature on differences in defence, loss of dispersal, changes in size, alterations to breeding systems, and the loss of fire adaptations, but also brings new data into focus to fill gaps in current understanding. By firmly establishing what is currently known about repeated patterns in the evolution of island plants, this book provides a roadmap for future research.

KEVIN C. BURNS is Professor in Biology at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He has been a practicing researcher for 15 years and has published over 100 papers in scientific journals including *Ecology*, *Ecology Letters*, and *Science*. He is fascinated by how organisms evolve on islands and has worked on archipelagos across the globe, including New Caledonia, New Zealand, the Chatham Islands, the California Islands and Lord Howe Island.

Cover illustration: Admiralty Islands
in the Southwest Pacific

Cover designed by Hart McLeod Ltd

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-108-42201-7



9 781108 422017 >