

JUNCUS HOLOSCHOENUS

John Thompson

Juncus holoschoenus is found in the North Island growing in swampy ground from sea level to 1000m in altitude. It has been found only rarely in the South Island.

J.B. Armstrong in T.N.Z.I. 12, 1880, 344, listed it as occurring on Banks Peninsula. There is also a J.B. Armstrong specimen at Botany Division, undated, from New Brighton. This Juncus has not been recorded from these localities since that time.

Mr. A.J. Healy collected it on 18th April, 1955 in the Selwyn River near the North-South Highway bridge. The author noticed it growing in that same area on 21st April, 1976. At that date this was the only site known in the South Island.

On 27th December, 1978 several patches of J. holoschoenus were found by the author and his wife at Chaneys. The forest in this area had been blown down and removed. The Juncus was growing in swampy ground.

The drawing by Cecil Dunn is a good representation.

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SPECIES AT RISK IN CANTERBURY

D.R. Given

Documentation of rare and threatened plants throughout New Zealand indicates that about 250 species can probably be regarded as under threat, with possibly another 50 in groups which are currently under taxonomic study and have not been considered at this stage (e.g. the grasses; most of Aciphylla and Coprosma). This is about 10% of the described flora and is comparable with figures for other parts of the world. No lists have been compiled for lower plant groups and this will not be done until further taxonomic and geographic data is forthcoming.

The attention of Society members is drawn to the species enumerated for Canterbury for two reasons. First, documentation of these plants depends on the observations and co-operation of a large number of individuals who are prepared to share information on location, size and status of populations, on successful propagation techniques, and on the habitat requirements and threats to species at risk. Members may be assured that any information on the distribution of species and location of colonies will be treated in confidence and will not be indiscriminately released to all and sundry. If you have any comment on the listed plants, it can be sent to Botany Division, DSIR, where

it will be filed along with other observations and comments on threatened species. Second, we should be encouraged to not further deplete these plants by unnecessarily collecting specimens and, in particular, taking whole plants for cultivation. Many species can be grown from cuttings, layers and seed, although even the taking of such material should be in moderation so that the reproductive capacity of the wild plant is not affected.

For information on threatened plants in New Zealand, the list of papers below is useful background. This year, the Nature Conservation Council is conducting an enquiry into threatened species and their habitats and the theme for Conservation Week both this year and next is Species at Risk. It is therefore appropriate for members of the Canterbury Botanical Society to consider the species at risk which grow in our own province.

Species are grouped into three categories and within each of these are assigned a code letter which gives the category of endangerment:

Extinct (Ex) - believed to be extinct in the wild although sometimes in cultivation.

Endangered (E) - in danger of extinction and survival unlikely if the causal factors continue to operate (also plants requiring continual management).

Vulnerable (V) - believed to be likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue to operate.

Rare (R) - with small wild populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but which are at risk.

Indeterminate (I) - known to be in one of the above categories but not enough information to know which.

ENDEMIC TO NEW ZEALAND
AND RESTRICTED TO CANTERBURY:

Carmichaelia appressa (R) - Kaitorete Spit; coastal open communities.

Carmichaelia prona (Ex) - Castle Hill area; lake margins.

Celmisia mackaui (V) - Banks Peninsula; grassland and cliffs.

Cotula intermedia (I) - South Canterbury; alpine grassland.

Geum divergens (I) - Hanmer area; alpine herbfield.

Hebe allanii (R) - Mount Peel area; alpine.

Hebe armstrongii (E) - Mid Canterbury; subalpine grassland/scrubland.

Hebe raoulii var. *macaskillii* (R) - North Canterbury; limestone.

Helichrysum dimorphum (E) - Castle Hill area; subalpine valley gorges and rocks.

Helichrysum plumeum (R) - South Canterbury; subalpine and alpine rocks, dry areas.

- Myosotis colensoi* (E) - Castle Hill area; limestone talus.
Myosotis traversii var. *cinerascens* (E) - Castle Hill area; limestone talus.
Notospartium torulosum (E) - chiefly mid to south Canterbury; sub-alpine rocky valleys.
Ranunculus crithmifolius subsp. *paucifolius* (E) - Castle Hill area; limestone talus.
Ranunculus grahamii (R) - Mount Cook region; high alpine bluffs.
Wahlenbergia brockiei (E) - Castle Hill area; limestone rocks.

ENDEMIC TO NEW ZEALAND
BUT OCCURRING IN CANTERBURY AND ELSEWHERE:

- Carex enysii* (R) - Castle Hill area; limestone rocks.
Carex inopinata (R) - Castle Hill area; limestone communities.
Carmichaelia kirkii (E) - scattered inland; forest/scrub margins.
Coprosma intertexta (R) - scattered inland; montane to subalpine scrub.
Coprosma obconica (I) - Coopers Creek area; wet swamp forest.
Cotula filiformis (V) - North Canterbury; montane grassland.
Cotula nana (E) - Banks Peninsula; shaded damp herbfield.
Desmoschoenus spiralis (V) - chiefly Kaitorete Spit; coastal and communities.
Epilobium purpuratum (R) - Mount Cook region; alpine herbfield.
Hebe cupressoides (E) - Mid Canterbury; subalpine grassland/scrubland.
Hymenanchera angustifolia (R) - scattered; forest margins.
Iphigenia novae-zelandiae (R) - scattered inland; montane grassland/wet herbfield.
Myosurus novae-zelandiae (R) - distribution uncertain; lowland wet sites.
Pseudopanax ferox (R) - chiefly Banks Peninsula; scrubby forest.
Ranunculus godleyanus (V) - Southern Alps; alpine damp rocky sites.
Senecio sciadophilus (V) - scattered, esp. Banks Peninsula; scrub, forest margins.
Swainsona novae-zelandiae (R) - scattered inland; alpine scree.
Teucrium parvifolium (R) - scattered; scrub and forest margins.

NOT ENDEMIC TO NEW ZEALAND
OCCURRING IN CANTERBURY AND ELSEWHERE:

- Anogramma leptophyllum* (I) - Banks Peninsula; grassland.
Hypoxis pusilla (R) - scattered, chiefly lowland; open grassland and herbfield.
Pleurosorus rutifolius (R) - Banks Peninsula; dry rocks.
Triglochin palustre (R) - Mid and South Canterbury; inland lake margins.

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HARRY HEAD

M.J.A. Simpson

In my short account of *Myosotis* on Banks Peninsula (Canty Bot. Soc. J. 10) I mentioned a specimen of *M. forsteri* in the Melbourne herbarium, MEL 71231 from "Akaroa, N.Z. ? North Head". I have since read in "Akaroa and Banks Peninsula, 1840-1940" (W.E.M. Jacobson) of a man known as Harry Head who lived on Banks Peninsula intermittently over a period of many years during the latter half of last century. His real name was said to be Alexander, "he was the son of a bookseller, an excellent mathematician and a fair Greek scholar besides understanding a good deal of botany. The latter was much cultivated by him during his sojourn on the Peninsula, and he was constantly in correspondence with Dr. Haast. He there (in Australia) formed an acquaintance with Baron von Mueller with whom he used to correspond upon botanical subjects".