

Nichol (1992) mentions other sources for the occurrence of goats on Rangitoto at this time, and of its grassy top.

One looks back to those days with more than nostalgia, when one could botanize on Rangitoto and like Ben Gunn refresh oneself with roast goat and oysters.

References

- Ducker, S. C. (ed.) 1988: The contented botanist: letters of W. H. Harvey about Australia and the Pacific. Melbourne University Press, Carlton.
- Nichol, R. 1992: The eruption history of Rangitoto: reappraisal of a small New Zealand myth. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 22: 159-180.

¹ Probably Newton Gully

² "I walked two or three miles from town to Hobson's glen - a smaller but better locality to that [the "fern-valley behind the town"] I had seen the day before." This is the valley between Ayr Street and Bassett Road, Newmarket (John Webster pers. comm; see Kinder photos etc.).

Schoenus carsei revisited*

Rhys Gardner

This species, a tussocky, long-culmed swamp sedge, was founded by Cheeseman on collections from four localities: "Whangarei" (actually, Maungatapere), Papatoetoe, between the Manukau Harbour and the Waikato River, and "Taranaki" (Ngaere Swamp). He conjectured that it might prove to be "common in lowland swamps". Actually, it seems to be one of our rarer plants (it also occurs in Australia). No longer present at Maungatapere (P. J. de Lange pers. comm.), nor, probably, in South Auckland, it does still occur in the Waikato Basin, at least at Whangamarino and Opuatia (C. C. Ogle, P. J. de Lange, pers. comm.). The only recent AK collection from further south though comes from the Hinehopu Swamp at the east end of Lake Rotoiti (Rotorua district), where Ewen Cameron found it to be "locally common ... associated with *Schoenus brevifolius* and *Tetraria capillaris*". It is not to be found in what is left of the Ngaere Swamp (C. C. Ogle pers. comm.).

My previous report of a collection of *S. carsei* from Ruawai was wrong, the specimen (AK 229770) on re-examination proving to be of *Baumea tenax*. Another so-labelled recent AK specimen, from a coastal swamp near Tutukaka, is also of *B. tenax*. It seems then that the only collection of *S. carsei* made from north of Auckland in the last 50 or so years might be that which Colin Ogle got from Great Barrier Island in 1980 (CHR 367170, 1 km SSW of Claris, grid. ref. NZMS 259: 710704, in manuka/*Gleichenia dicarpa*/*Baumea juncea* swamp). The plant should be searched for in the Far North, since Carse found it near Wharekia, Rangaunu Harbour "in morass between the mangrove swamp and ancient coastline" (see also *W. F. Harris*, Kaikino [Stream?], 1948, CHR), and Cooper, Mason and Moar found it in 1948 in the "swamp in valley near bridge at top of Ahipara Hill (AK 220483).

If one has only sterile specimens, it is still possible (with some luck) to distinguish *Schoenus carsei* from the very similar *Baumea tenax* and *Tetraria capillaris*, using just a razor-blade and x 10 lens (see Fig.1), as follows:

- 1 Culms at c. ½ way up usually less than 0.8 mm diam., pith finely but distinctly septate; mucro of basal sheaths us. projecting less than 5 mm long beyond sheath apex, minutely setose on the basal margins..... *Tetraria capillaris*
- 1 Culms at c. ½ way up usually 0.8-1 mm diam., pith continuous (but liable to compress or break down under the blade in *S. carsei*); mucro of basal sheaths glabrous 2
- 2 Pith of culms longitudinally traversed by denser (living ?) plates of tissue, in longitudinal section then pale but with one or more darker streaks or lines; mucro rarely exceeding sheath apex by more than two mm *Baumea tenax*
- 2 Pith of culms uniformly pale-parenchymatous; mucro sometimes several cm long *Schoenus carsei*

* article rewritten and amended from version in *Auck. Bot. Soc. Jnl* 53(1): 38-40 1998.

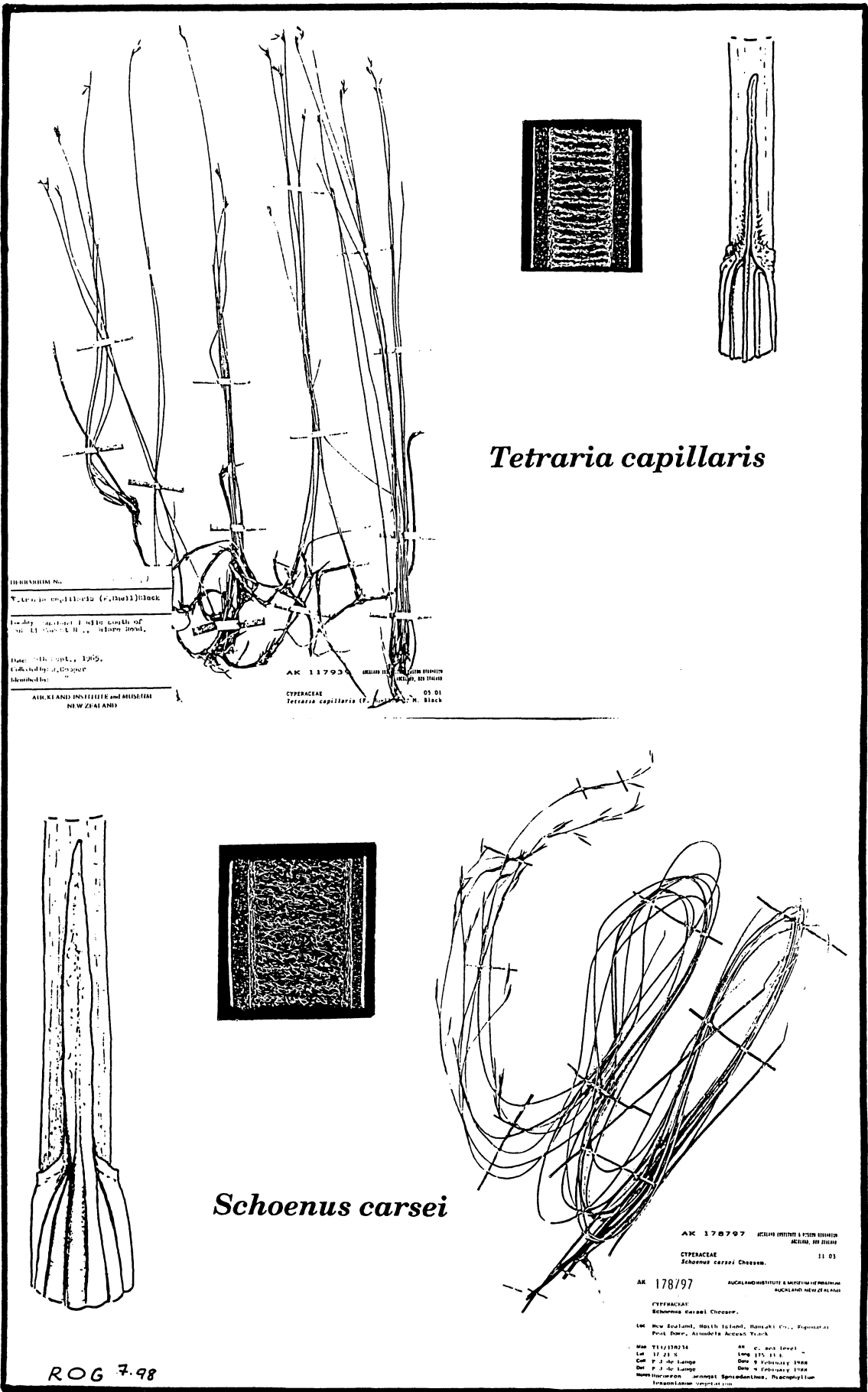


Figure 1: Tetraria capillaris and Schoenus carsei