

Spinifex sericeus in Auckland

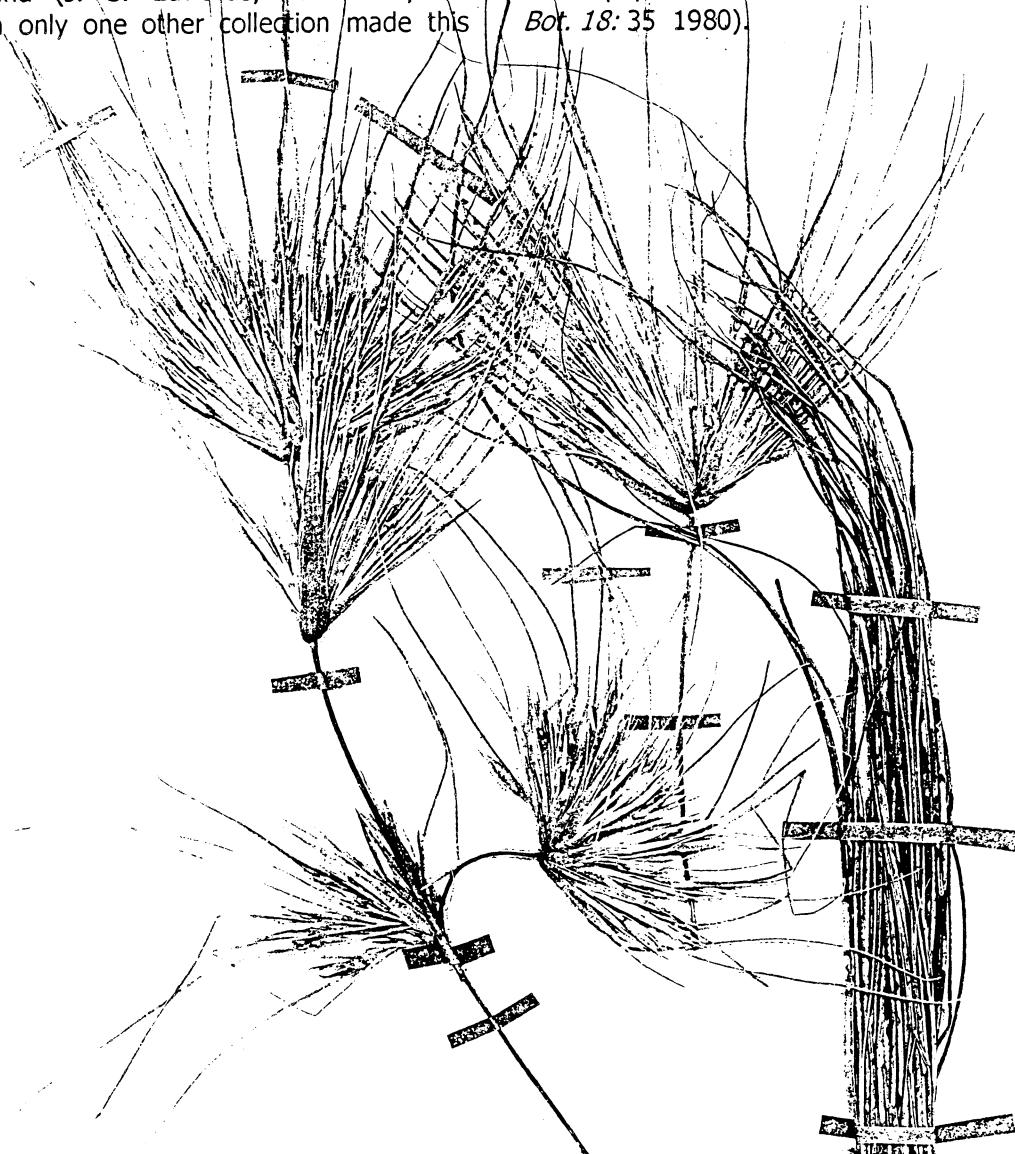
Rhys Gardner

The last-century specimen illustrated here caught my eye for two reasons. Firstly, it seems to be one of a fairly small number of New Zealand plants collected by British naval captain Sir James Everard Home (after whom *Geranium homeanum* is named), and secondly, it raises the question of binding grass we have today in the Hauraki Gulf.

Presumably it is still present on Waiheke, so common, perhaps, that no-one has thought to collect it? But the most recent AK collection from the Tamaki and Inner Gulf Islands Ecological Districts was made nearly fifty years ago, on Brown's Island (J. S. Edwards, Feb 1953, AK 44805), with only one other collection made this

century (Murray's Bay, Miss N. Mackie, 16 Jan 1933, AK 109908). And apart from the Home collection, there are only two others from last century, both made by Cheeseman in 1878 ("coast near Lake Pupuke", AK 1288; "sandhills near Lake Pupuke", AK 1289).

Last year on a visit to Rangitoto I saw how abundant marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) had become on the sandy frontage of McKenzie Bay. I'd like to see it replaced by spinifex, even though this seems never to have been recorded for the island (but Alan Esler vouches for its presence on Motutapu, Motuihe and Brown's Island - see *N. Z. J. Bot.* 18: 35 1980).



FLORA OF NEW ZEALAND
Ex Herbario Musei Britannici

Spinifex hirsutus Lab.

Wai-he-ke Is., (near Auckland).

Jan. 1852.

AK 92728

AUCKLAND INSTITUTE & MUSEUM HERBARIUM
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

GRAMINEAE
Spinifex sericeus R. Br.

Loc. New Zealand, Auckland Ecological Region Inner Gulf Islands Ecological District, "Wai-he-ke" (Waiheke) Island, (near Auckland)

Map	c. S11	Alt.	
Lat.	36 5' S	Long	175 0' E
Coll.	Captain E Home	Date	January
Det.		Date	

Notes ex Herbario Musei Britannici