

ELEOCHARIS GRACILIS

by John Thompson

Four plants of Eleocharis gracilis were found by the writer and his wife in damp ground near Chaneys on 28th April, 1976. The swamp contained many fine tussocks of the rush Juncus pallidus some growing up to 7 feet high. There was much Eleocharis acuta in varying heights from 5 to 15 inches and quantities of Potentilla anserinoides some still showing their gay yellow flowers.

Unfortunately there are many young Silver Poplars in the area where the Eleocharis gracilis was seen which may eventually take over the ground cover. The Eleocharis gracilis area is a very restricted one and the plants are not easy to find.

The plants we saw were diminutive ones with culms up to 3 inches long. It bears its spikes on the tip of the culms but the great majority of culms showed no signs of any spike development. Eleocharis gracilis can be distinguished from Eleocharis acuta by the oblique orifice of the top of the sheath, that of Eleocharis acuta is truncate with a dark thickened edge and with a distinct mucro at the back up to one third of an inch long.

Eleocharis gracilis is not a common plant in Canterbury. The University herbarium has three specimens taken from Cass around 1956 to 1958 and a later one found in 1971 at Lake Coleridge. Botany Division's herbarium has one specimen collected at Broken River in 1940 and a later one collected in 1970 at Lake Tekapo.

I can find no record of it having been collected in the Christchurch area since Armstrong collected it near the mouth of the Waimakariri River, specimen undated, except our own findings on Mt. Herbert in 1972 and 1975.

---

FLORISTIC NOTES

B.P.J. Molloy

These notes focus attention mainly on species encountered over the past twelve months during a survey of potential or existing reserves, parks, etc. The species are listed according to regions, and Grid References are given to help locate them. These references are taken from the N.Z.M.S. I Map Series (1 inch to 1 mile) and six figures are cited after a sheet number if the locality is known with reasonable precision; if not, a four figure reference is given to indicate the area within which the species can be found. Reserves are located by a central Grid Reference and other features such as roads, streams, etc.

Authorities are quoted for names which are not used in Allan's Flora (Allan, 1961), and specimens in the Botany Division Herbarium are indicated by their appropriate CHR numbers.

MARLBOROUGH

Beilschmiedia tawa: The southern-most stand of tawa was said to be at the head of the Irongate Stream (Seaward Valley Rd) in a remnant patch of mixed podocarp - hardwood forest known as the Blue Duck Scenic Reserve - Grid. Ref. S42/065114 (See Smith, 1935; P. Wardle, 1961; J. Wardle, 1971; Burrows, 1972; and CHR 115869, 117178). I have seen seedlings, saplings