

I found a swarm of hybrid *Aspleniums* in which at least four varieties are mixed up, and the Doctor was greatly delighted with them . . . Later I got hybrid *Uncinias*, rushes, grasses, coprosmas and so on. I also found many swans that turned out to be geese, and "introduced plant" got to be familiar at times in my lists . . .

Hook-grass without Hooks

Mr. B. G. Hamlin in his revision of the hook-grasses (A Revision of the Genus *Uncinia* in New Zealand, *Dominion Museum Bulletin 19*) supports the idea that the "hook" at the end of the rhachilla, or axis, is a reflexed glume. "This is borne out", he says, "by a few rare specimens in which the "hook" is replaced by one or more glumes bearing male flowers in their axes. Such evidence would appear to invalidate the idea . . . that the "hook" has developed as a dispersal mechanism from a simple seta [bristle]." Recently I noticed some examples of this sort of replacement in a plant of *Uncinia involuta*, collected on Mt. Egmont and grown on in a pot at Taita. Mr. R. R. Julian, Soil Bureau, took the photograph reproduced here. The specimen is deposited in the Botany Division herbarium at Lincoln (No. 159201).

A.P.D.



Portion of spike of *Uncinia involuta*, showing replacement of "hooks" by glumes bearing male flowers.