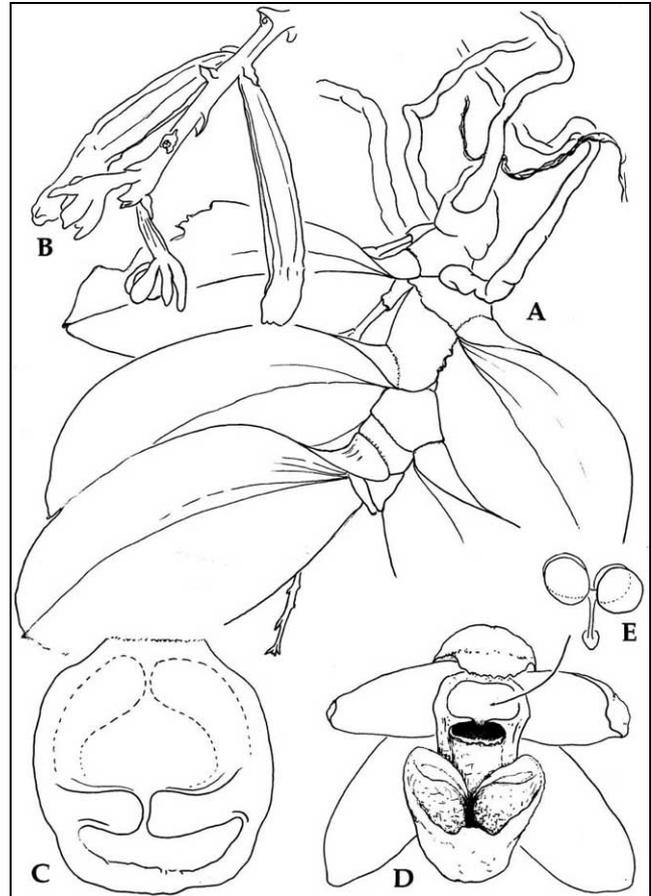


The reason for its scarcity cannot be the lack of host trees (though one of its favorites, *Beilschmiedia tarairi*, is very local in the Waitakeres). If my find is anything to go by, *D. adversus* should be searched for further west along the shore of the Manukau Harbour, in sheltered stream mouths, on the older rough-barked trees like mahoe (*Melicactus ramiflorus*) and rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) and also on nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*).

Bruce Irwin (Moore and Edgar 1970; Moore & Irwin 1978; Molloy and St George 1994) has illuminated some details of *D. adversus*: the spotted leaves and perianth, the fleshy double-pocketed labellum, and the stigma which is simply the circular orifice to a tube leading down to the top of the ovary. My material, illustrated at right (Figure 1), had column wings rather less prominent than his did, apparently.

**Figure 1. *Drymoanthus adversus* (Hook.f.) Dockrill. Based on ROG 10515.**

- A. Whole plant. Leaves 1.5 cm wide.**
- B. Inflorescence with developing pods (ovary 1 cm long).**
- C. Labellum (flattened, from above, 2 mm long). Showing the front third of the labellum almost closed by a pair of well-developed calli; the rear two-thirds of labellum ringed by a pair of much lower calli.**
- D. Flower from in front, c. 4 mm diam. Anther-cap and pollinia removed.**
- E. Pollinia in two unequal-membered pairs, stipe ending in a sticky disc.**



Collection: Laingholm, ARC's "Manchester Unity Block", Finn Creek, low epiphyte on an old tanekaha and a kowhai close together on shoreline, southern exposure, numerous small plants and several flowering ones, not seen on the other good-sized trees (mostly Hall's totara) of this sheltered and shady creek mouth, 24 Nov 2003, ROG 10515, AK.

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## Population of *Carex brownii* at Stanmore Bay

Mike Wilcox

On 25 August 2003, with John Wilcox, I checked out a block of DOC land at 53 Stanmore Bay Road, Whangaparaoa Peninsula. It adjoins the Girl Guides centre and used to be the grounds of the original Whangaparaoa School. DOC are handing it over for community use, jointly Forest & Bird and John's community vegetable garden group.

The land is sloping and generally poorly drained. There are some native plantings dating to the original school, and several clumps of exotic trees planted or

naturalised. There are a lot of weeds, including various South African Iridaceae like *Watsonia*, *Gladiolus*, *Chasmanthe*, *Montbretia*, *Sparaxis*, *Babiana*, and *Aristea*; and pampas grass (Wilcox & Clapperton 2003).

On a poorly-drained grassy slope next to the road I found a loosely tufted species of a weedy-looking *Carex*, 30-70 cm tall, growing in abundance, which could not be immediately identified (Wilcox & Clapperton 2003). I collected some material (AK

284411, map reference R10 669 063) which Ewen Cameron sent to Dr Takuji Hoshino, Okayama University of Science, Japan. He identified it as *Carex brownii* Tuck.

*Carex brownii* is recorded as an adventive sedge in New Zealand, but the only known collections are the ones by R. H. Matthews from near Kaitaia (CHR 291125, CHR 108992; AK 2814, AK 109838, AK 247257) in 1904 (Healy & Edgar 1980). A hundred years later it has turned up at Stanmore Bay! It is native to Australia (Vic, NSW, Qld), Papua New Guinea, and Japan.

I did not identify it as *C. brownii* as the description by Healy & Edgar (1980) indicated a much shorter plant, much narrower leaves, and a longer uppermost (male) spike than I observed. However, on checking the two 1904 Matthews collections at CHR, I have no doubt that the Kaitaia and Stanmore Bay plants are the same species – *Carex brownii*. The description by Wilson

(1993) better represents the plants at Stanmore Bay. Distinctive features are the 3-fid style, very long mucro on the glumes, and shortly beaked yellowish utricles.



**Figure 1. *Carex brownii* at Raroa Gardens, Stanmore Bay Road, Stanmore Bay. 07/10/03.**

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ewen Cameron for advice and assistance, and to Takuji Hoshino for identifying the plant.

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## ***Carex hirsutella* – a new introduced sedge in the Auckland Region**

**Mike Wilcox**

On 23 August 2001 and 14 November 2001 I visited Stoney Creek Forest at Kaukapakapa to prepare a species list for the small native bush reserve on the property (Wilcox & Clapperton 2001). During the 14 November visit, our group – Mike Wilcox, Lisa Clapperton, Enid Asquith and Maureen Young – noticed an unusual sedge growing on some of the road verges and on recent tracks for logging the pine stands. It occurred on disturbed sites, notably the edges of the main road from the gate off Dye Access Rd to the hut, and also on an old logging trail nearby. The plant was abundant (hundreds of individuals) and was well established. It appeared to be weedy, and the plants looked very uniform – all with the same hairy, grassy leaves and prominent drooping fruiting culms. The plants were very firmly rooted with a dense fibrous root system.

The plant keyed out as *Carex pallescens* in Healy & Edgar (1980), but on checking specimens of this at the Auckland Museum Herbarium, the Stoney Creek plants were not a good match. I collected some more material (AK 280571, map reference Q10 483085) on 29 November 2001 and Ewen Cameron subsequently sent specimens of this plant and another apparently new *Carex* from Stanmore Bay to Dr Takuji Hoshino,

Okayama University of Science, Japan. He identified the one from Stoney Creek as *Carex hirsutella* Mackenzie, from the SE United States. The Stoney Creek plants were also compared with specimens of *C. hirsutella* held in the Allan Herbarium, Landcare Research Lincoln (CHR 272414, Pennsylvania; CHR 75251, Virginia; CHR 14136, South Carolina), and were found to be similar.

*Carex hirsutella*, also known as *Carex complanata* var. *hirsuta* (L.H.Bailey) Gleason is widespread in the eastern USA, its habitat being dry woods, savannas, upland prairies, disturbed sites, roadsides and railroads. The pilose, hairy leaves have given it the common name “fuzzy wuzzy” sedge. The inflorescence comprises 2-4 short (5-9 mm) greenish racemes of flowers at the tip of the culms, overtopped by two slender bracts. The terminal raceme (slightly longer than the lateral racemes) has a few male flowers at the base; otherwise, all the flowers are female. Its other distinctive feature is the smooth, beakless utricle. The whole plant grows in dense spreading clump, 30-50 cm tall. Along with the related *Carex pallescens*, it belongs to Kukenthal’s (1909) subgenus *Carex*, sect. *Pachystylae*, or, in K. K. McKenzie’s 1934 alternative classification, genus *Carex*, sect. *Porocystis*.