

gaspar. The genus belongs to the natural order of the Buckthorns (Rhamnaceæ), and other species occur at the Cape of Good Hope, but they are low and shrubby. The foliage of the tree is of a dark glossy green, with the under sides of the narrow almost needle-like leaves white and downy, hence the tree, which in habit is very like a Yew, presents as a whole a mixture of glaucous grey and dark olive green shades; it bears berries of about the size of sweet-peas, which are eaten by the Finch living on the islands. The constant heavy gales do not permit the tree to grow erect; the trunk is usually procumbent at its origin for several feet, and then rises again, often at a right angle, and is always more or less twisted or gnarled. In sheltered places, as under the cliffs on the northeast of Inaccessible Island, the tree is as high as 25 feet, but it is not nearly so high on the summit of the island, though the trunks are said there to reach a length of 30 feet or more. The largest trunk seen was about a foot in diameter, but they are said to grow to 18 inches. The wood of the tree is brittle, and when exposed, rapidly decays, but is serviceable when dried carefully with the bark on. The German settlers on Inaccessible Island used it even for handles to their axes and other tools.

*Inaccessible Island*, next in size to Tristan, and the most westerly of the group, receives its name from its appearance; and certainly this name seems most applicable when the island is viewed from a distance of 2 or 3 miles. A nearer approach, however, discloses the fact that beaches exist, here and there, at the foot of the almost perpendicular cliffs, all around the island, and on the northeast and northwest sides these beaches are occasionally so wide as to afford space for building purposes, or pitching tents; and from two points where the cliffs are somewhat broken it is possible, by the aid of the Tussock Grass, which grows on every available spot, to climb to the undulating table top of the island.

Inaccessible Island is quadrilateral in shape, the sides being nearly equal, each about 2 miles in length, and the angles pointing in the direction of the cardinal points of the compass. Its highest point, on the west side, is 1840 feet above the level of the sea; from here it slopes irregularly towards the coast, terminating on all sides in precipitous cliffs averaging 1100 feet in height. On the south point is a remarkable rocky cone 1140 feet, and on the southwestern side another cone 690 feet, in height, but separated from the cliffs by V-shaped chasms, apparently the effect of rain. Separated from the south point by a channel, a cable wide, is a pyramidal rock 60 feet in height, close to which is a smaller rock only 3 feet above the level of the sea, and off the southwest coast of the island are three detached rocks over which the sea is constantly breaking. On the southeast side is a conical rock 230 feet in height, just off the coast, and a cable off the east point is a rock 3 feet above the level of the sea. On the northeast side of the island are two waterfalls, the easternmost being the larger and more conspicuous (see fig. 100), and off a point in the centre of the northeast coast is a rock 2