

The rocks, about high-tide mark, are covered with a dense growth of the large brown seaweed, *D'Urvillea utilis*, which is of great assistance in breaking the surf. Beyond the ordinary reach of the sea, but still within the beach-line, the rocks are covered with a crassulaceous plant (*Tilleania moschata*, D.C.), occurring also in Kerguelen's Land. Succeeding the beach is a thick growth of herbage investing a swampy black peaty soil, which covers the underlying rock more or less thickly everywhere on the lower ground and extends up with the herbage almost to the snow. The principal plants forming the thick growth are an *Acacia* (*Acacia ascendens*), *Azorella selago*, and a grass (*Poa Cookii*, Hk. f.). The *Acacia* is by far the most abundant plant on the island.

The *Azorella* forms low, convex, bright green patches in intervals between the *Acacia* or cake-like masses at its roots.

*Azorella selago* is a characteristic plant of the southern islands, and will be frequently referred to in the sequel. It belongs to the Umbelliferae. It forms large convex masses often several feet in diameter, which are compact and firm, and when on solid ground yield little to the tread. The masses are made up of the stems and shoots of the plants closely packed together side by side, their flowering tips and small stiff and tough leaves forming an even rounded surface at the exterior, being all of the same length. The interior of the masses is full of dead leaves and stems. The whole where growing in abundance forms sheets and hummocks which invest the soil for acres in extent with a continuous elastic green coating. An allied plant, *Bolax glebaria*, forms similar masses at the Falkland Islands, and there is a tendency in many Antarctic plants to assume a similar habit, as in the case, e.g., of *Lyallia kerguelensis*.

The grass is abundant everywhere, mingled with the *Acacia* and *Azorella*. The plants are, no doubt, rendered especially luxuriant by the dung of the numerous sea-birds; but no mutual benefit arrangement has sprung up between the *Poa* and the penguins, as it has at the Tristan da Cunha group between the penguins and *Spartina arundinacea*. The *Poa Cookii* nowhere forms a tussock. The rookeries of King Penguins are entirely bare, and the grass is not more luxuriant around the nests of the Golden-crested Penguins than elsewhere. The *Poa* was the only grass found in flower in the island. Different-looking forms were observed, especially around the numerous pools of water on the hill slopes; but they are possibly mere modifications of the same grass due to alteration of conditions; none of them were in flower. *Pringlea antiscorbutica*, the