

æquabilis, which we should rank at the highest as a variety of the same species as *Carex præalta*. Burchell distinguished them as follows:—“*Carex elata*—Culmi graciles, 4–6 pedales, spiculis quibusdam fœmineis ad apices masculis; monœcia, superiores mere masculi; inferiores feminei. *Carex longifolia*—Culmi foliis breviores, spicis masculis ad apices fœmineis; monœcia, inferiores mere fœminei.”

GRAMINEÆ.

Of this order the indigenous element in St Helena seems to have been exceedingly small, consisting probably of only three or four species described below; but many widely spread grasses were common there at the beginning of the present century, and are now found all over the island. Some of these doubtless were purposely introduced, others accidentally, while a few may have reached the island quite independently of human agency. Among the commoner species are:—*Paspalum scrobiculatum*, Linn.; *Panicum colonum*, Linn.; *Panicum crus-galli*, Linn.; *Panicum sanguinale*, Linn.; *Eriochloa annulata*, Kunth; *Setaria verticillata* and *Setaria glauca*, Beauv.; *Gymnothrix caudata*, Schrad.; *Coix lachryma*, Linn.; *Phalaris canariensis*, Linn.; *Stenotaphrum americanum*, Schrank; *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Linn.; *Polypogon littoralis*, Sm.; *Polypogon monspeliensis*, Desf.; *Cynodon dactylon*,¹ Pers.; *Dactyloctenium ægyptiacum*, Willd.; *Eleusine indica*, Gærtn.; *Eragrostis poæoides*, Beauv.; *Triodia decumbens*, Beauv.; *Poa annua*, Linn.; *Festuca myurus*, Linn.; *Festuca bromoides*, Sm.; *Bromus vestitus*, Schrad., &c. Almost every one of the foregoing grasses is now very widely spread, and in many cases it is impossible to determine where they are really indigenous.

Alopecurus paniculatus, Roxb., in Beatson's St Helena Tracts, p. 296, without a description, remains undetermined.

Ehrharta urvilleana, Kunth, Enum., i. p. 14; Duperr., Voy. “Coquille,” Bot. Phaner., p. 147, t. 24, published as indigenous in St Helena, is the same as *Ehrharta longiflora*, Sm., a South African species, and must be regarded as an introduced plant.

Eleusine calycina, Roxb., l. c., p. 308, without description, is unknown to us.

“*Agrostis purpurascens*, Willd.” Roxb. in Beatson's St Helena Tracts, p. 296, is clearly *Sporobolus indicus*, R. Br. (including *Sporobolus elongatus*, R. Br.), and not an *Agrostis*, for Roxburgh's imperfect description exactly agrees, as far as it goes, with the characters of the *Sporobolus*. This grass is one of the more widely dispersed kinds, being extremely common all over Tropical and Subtropical Asia, Africa, America, and Australia, and

¹ According to Melliss, this is perhaps the most abundant grass in the island, “and doubtless indigenous,” thus contradicting what he himself says (and we have reproduced elsewhere) in his introduction to the botanical part of his work. It is now almost ubiquitous in warm countries, and we regard it as an introduced plant in St Helena. Roxburgh (under *Panicum dactylon*, Linn.) says “Wire-grass” is the vernacular name, and it is supposed to be a native of the island; yet he leaves the question open.