

extending to many of the islands, including New Zealand, and to some of the remote islets, including the Bermudas. Another species of the same genus, *Sporobolus virginicus*, Kunth, is almost universally spread in maritime districts, in tropical and subtropical regions, and was one of the few plants found in South Trinidad by Sir Joseph Hooker. The grain of these grasses is exceedingly small, that of *Sporobolus indicus* being about $\frac{1}{24}$ th of an inch long and $\frac{1}{60}$ th of an inch broad, hence the means by which they may be conveyed from place to place are almost infinite. Roxburgh regarded his "*Agrostis purpurascens*" as indigenous; Burchell's n. 40, which we take to be the same plant, was collected "by the road near Miss Mason's and in the road near Forster's;" but Burchell says nothing as to its being native or otherwise. Melliss sent a specimen of the same grass to Kew in 1863, labelled "St Helena," but not localised. It may be worth while reproducing Roxburgh's descriptive note in support of our identification:—"Indigenous on the hills of St Helena, where it grows to be from two to three feet high; perfectly erect, very naked of leaves, as they are only few in number, but short and very slender. The inflorescence is a long slender panicle composed of numerous small, simple, or compound appressed branches, crowded with numerous short-pedicelled, smooth flowers. Calycine valves unequal, scarce half the length of the corolla, which has its two valves nearly equal and rather acute; but nothing like an awn either here or to the calyx."

Agrostis simulans, Hemsl.

Agrostis simulans, Hemsl., n. sp.

In aspect and structural character this is so near the European *Agrostis alba*, var. *stolonifera*, as to require close examination in order to find any tangible differences. The late General Munro had marked it as a "good species," and after a careful comparison we have adopted his view. Yet it is not easy to draw up a description that would exclude every other species. Perhaps it will be better to indicate the differences rather than merely describe the plant. Of the same habit of growth as *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Agrostis simulans* has more slender culms and smaller leaves, with scarcely any trace of a ligule in the place of the prominent one of the former species. The branches of the panicle are fewer and relatively longer, and ultimately become nearly horizontal; and the pale is smaller in comparison than in *Agrostis stolonifera*.—Hook., Ic. Pl., t. 1455.

There are copious specimens collected by various travellers, and they all exhibit the differences indicated.

ST HELENA.—Endemic. Sandy Bay—*Burchell*, 36; Diana's Peak, above 2000 feet—*Hooker*, 269; without locality—*Melliss*, in 1863.

In his manuscript notes Burchell states that this grass was abundant in pastures in the interior of the island.