

collection is that it establishes the fact that the vegetation of the three islands is composed of the self-same species. It embraces, however, one new species, *Cotula moseleyi*, Hemsl., from Nightingale Island, besides a very fine series of *Scirpi*, which constitute the bulk of the short herbage in some parts of the islands. Several of these forms of *Scirpus* are very different in appearance, and Mr Boeckeler, to whom specimens were sent shortly after their arrival in England, has described five of them as new species; but, after carefully studying numerous specimens, we can give that rank to only one. All the principal forms are figured in this work, with the object of showing their close similarity in structure and diversity in habit, which latter is probably due to differences of soil and situation.

Here follow some extracts from Mr Moseley's notes¹ on the vegetation of the three islands:—

“*Tristan da Cunha*.—The cliffs have a scanty covering of green, derived mainly from grasses, sedges, mosses, and ferns, with darker patches of *Phyllica nitida*² and *Empetrum nigrum*, var. *rubrum*, which become more and more marked towards the summit. Conspicuous patches of bright green are formed under the cliff at the foot of the watercourses by a dock (*Rumex frutescens*). Dotted about amongst the other herbage are rounded tufts of pale bluish green, consisting of *Spartina arundinacea*. On near inspection, the damp foot of the cliffs is found to be covered with mosses and liverworts, which latter form in favourable situations continuous green sheets, covering the earth beneath the grass.

“Unfortunately, specimens in fructification were rare. Two ferns, *Asplenium obtusatum*, growing in the clefts of the rocks, and *Lomaria alpina*, are most abundant under the cliffs. The *Lomaria* plants, where situated on stony slopes and comparatively starved, were all provided with fertile fronds; whilst, when growing in the rich vegetable mould, they were commonly without fructification. The commonest flowering plants under the cliffs are *Apium australe*, *Empetrum*, *Sonchus olcraceus*, *Hypochæris glabra*, and a plant with strongly scented leaves, *Chenopodium tomentosum*, which is used as tea by the inhabitants, a decoction of the leaves being drunk with milk and sugar. The plant also grows abundantly on Inaccessible Island, but only the remains of last season's inflorescence were to be found. *Nertera depressa* is very abundant, creeping everywhere amongst the moss. The yellow-flowered *Oxalis corniculata* was not abundant. *Cardamine hirsuta* was, singularly enough, not met with on either of the three islands of the group, though said by Carmichael to be abundant on the sea-shore.³ Some shallow fresh-water ponds, close to the sea-beach, were covered with *Confervæ*, but contained no *Chara*. Around these ponds grew a minute sedge (*Scirpus*, sp.) not found on the other two islands of the group.

“In the gully above the settlement, *Phyllica nitida*, the only tree in the islands, commences at about 400 feet elevation. There are no trees in this locality, since they have been cut down for

¹ *Journal of the Linnean Society of London*, xiv. pp. 377–384; and Notes by a Naturalist on the Challenger, pp. 108–137.

² The nomenclature has been altered in a few instances to bring it into accord with that adopted in this work.

³ This statement is incorrect, and arose from a misreading of the remarks on the distribution of *Cardamine hirsuta*, in Hooker's *Flora Antarctica*.