

CYPERACEÆ.

Scirpus.

The forms of this genus in Tristan da Cunha and the neighbouring islets, Inaccessible and Nightingale, are numerous, and so closely allied, most of them, to each other, that it is a difficult and perplexing task to deal with them. Nearly a dozen of them have been described as species, or perhaps it would be more correct to say that about that number has been proposed, for some of the forms, doubtless, have been described under more than one name. Of the forms collected by Mr Moseley, Bœckeler described five as new species; only one of which, *Scirpus oliveri*, in our opinion, has any claim to that rank. These sedges are very abundant in the islands, growing in a variety of situations; hence, probably, the differences in habit, vigour, degree of fertility, and other characters which have been regarded as of specific value. We have devoted four plates to the illustration of some of the more distinct forms, which we reduce to four species; and we think it probable that a careful study of all the southern species would lead to the identification of some or all of the insular forms with some of the South African, Australian, or New Zealand species.

Scirpus sulcatus, Thouars. (Plate XXXI.)

Scirpus sulcatus, Thouars, Esquisse Fl. Trist., p. 36, t. 7, fig. dextra; Kunth, Enum., ii. p. 216.

Isolepis sulcata, Carmich. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., xii. p. 503.

Isolepis carmichaelii, Dietr., Sp. Pl., ii. p. 107.

Scirpus thouarsii, Spreng., Syst. Veg. cur. post, p. 27.

Scirpus conspersus, Bœckel. in Linnæa, xxxvi. p. 505, *pro parte?*

TRISTAN DA CUNHA GROUP.—Endemic? *Thouars*; *Carmichael*; *MacGillivray*; *Moseley*.

This is perhaps the same as *Scirpus inundatus*, Spreng., as limited in Bentham's *Flora Australiensis*, vii. p. 329, and the *Isolepis prolifera*, Hook. f., *Fl. Tasm.*, ii. p. 87, t. 144 (but not of R. Br.), is scarcely distinguishable from our plant.

Scirpus sulcatus, Thouars, var. *moseleyanus*, Hemsl. (Plate XXXII.)

Scirpus sulcatus, Thouars, var. *moseleyanus*, Hemsl.

Scirpus moseleyanus, Bœckeler in *Flora*, 1875, p. 262 (species).

NIGHTINGALE and INACCESSIBLE ISLANDS.—Endemic. *Moseley*.

At first sight this looks very different from typical *Scirpus sulcatus*, but after a careful examination we can come to no other conclusion than that it is a form of the same species. Among the specimens of undoubted *Scirpus sulcatus* from Tristan da Cunha, in Kew Herbarium, is one about four inches high, and the tallest is about twenty-eight inches. Between these extremes there is every gradation; and some of the plants collected by