A broken camp was packed into vehicles for the uneventful return trip to the Te Paki shearers' quarters. As we left, the vast flocks of *Larus novaehollandiae* dipped their wings in farewell, as though they realised we might never return.

Wednesday 25 October Maureen Young

The demands of the work-a-day world called many to return homewards on this day, but those left behind set off, despite the rain, in search of the Te Paki endemic, *Metrosideros bartlettii*. A combination of misunderstanding instructions and misreading the map meant that several gullies and ridges were traversed before the promised trees were located. These trees all looked wonderfully healthy, with the new season's foliage bright green against the old, and binoculars revealed that they were laden with buds. We regretted that we couldn't see them in a month's time when the white flowers would be open. As if to celebrate this scene, the rain cleared up, and we explored in comfort, and admired the efforts made by DOC to protect and enhance the community. Trees were banded against possums, bait stations were set up, and saplings were planted in a variety of situations.

We returned to base well pleased with our day, and on the next day, when driving home through flooded landscapes, we realised how minor our wetting had been.

Reference

Wilson, Catherine. M. & David R., Given. 1989. *Threatened Plants of New Zealand.* Botany Division DSIR Publishing, Wellington.

Editors Note: A species list of the North Cape area has been promised for the next edition of this year's journal.

Andropogon virginicus and *Stipa tenuissima*

R. O. Gardner, P. D. Champion and P. J. de Lange

The unwelcome presence in New Zealand of these two grasses is noted.

Andropogon virginicus L. broomsedge

Tufted perennial, 50 (-100) cm tall; leaves rather pale green, sheaths flattened, blades 3 mm wide, margins villous proximally. Inflorescence narrow, the 2-4 racemes c. 2.5 cm long, more or less included in the spathes; rachis internodes and pedicels with pale long hairs; spikelets paired, sessile spikelet c. 3 mm long, pedicelled spikelet obsolete.

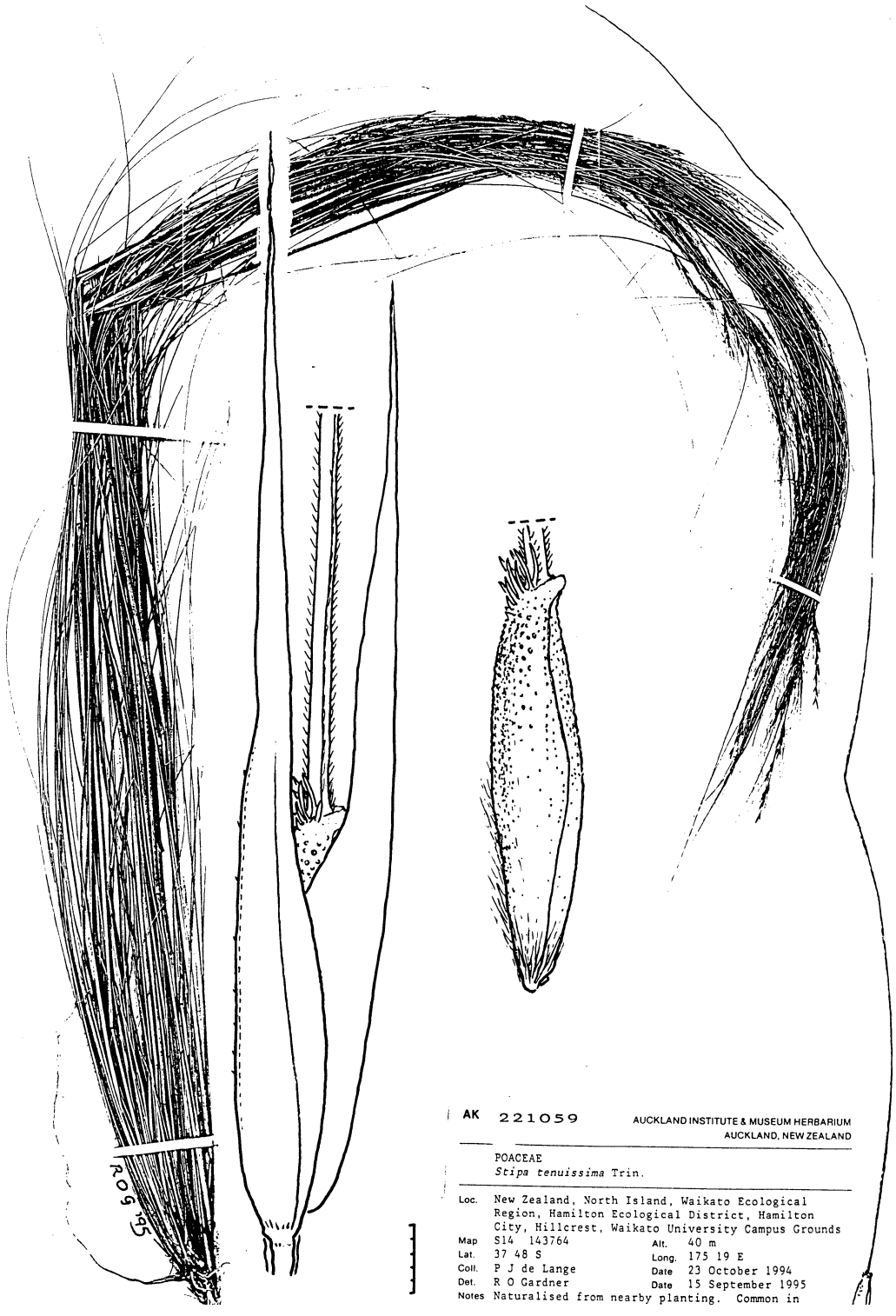
Native to eastern North America. Naturalised elsewhere, including Hawaii and Australia, where it can be abundant in dry, low-fertility sites. It is an important weed of marginal pasture in the USA. Dense infestations in pine plantings present a fire risk and inhibit the growth of pine seedlings.

Broomsedge was first recorded for NZ by Edgar and Shand (1987). It has a scattered distribution at present, specimens coming from Glenbrook (in 1963), Waiotapu (1976), the Riverhead highway near Albany Hill (1987), and the Warkworth town centre (1995). One of us (P. J. de L.) saw it last year in Northland, at Matai Bay and at Te Paki. Despite seven years of eradication measures it persists at the Albany Hill site.

HERB. JOHN H. SEARS.

Andropogon Virginicus, L.

Cape Cod. Sept. 79.



AK 221059 AUCKLAND INSTITUTE & MUSEUM HERBARIUM
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

POACEAE
Stipa tenuissima Trin.

Loc.	New Zealand, North Island, Waikato Ecological Region, Hamilton Ecological District, Hamilton City, Hillcrest, Waikato University Campus Grounds		
Map	S14 143764	Alt.	40 m
Lat.	37 48 S	Long.	175 19 E
Coll.	P J de Lange	Date	23 October 1994
Det.	R O Gardner	Date	15 September 1995
Notes	Naturalised from nearby planting. Common in		

In New South Wales this plant is known as whisky grass, the story being that it first entered the country during World War II, in packing material around vital supplies for members of the U.S. armed forces (L. Vervoort, *pers. comm.* to ROG). The earliest Australian specimen cited by Vickery (1961:51) was collected in 1942, from Coff's Harbour, NSW.

Stipa tenuissima Trin. needlegrass
Densely tufted perennial to c. 40 (-70) cm tall; leaves wiry, involute, c. 0.5 mm diam., antrorsely scabrid; panicle narrow; spikelets often purplish; glumes slightly unequal, c. 1 cm long; lemma scabrid-papillose, the awn us. geniculate, c. 5 cm long.

Native apparently to southern-central USA, Mexico, and Argentina, cultivated elsewhere as an ornamental grass though known to be "somewhat invasive". It is a plant of dry open ground. This species was not included in the checklist of Edgar *et al.* (1991). The only AK specimen was collected in 1994 from the University of Waikato grounds, where the plant is rapidly spreading by seed.

Kerry Ford (1994) has researched its recent history in the country. It was "allegedly imported" by a well-known Auckland wholesale nursery five to ten years ago and sold as the quite different Mediterranean species, *Stipa tenacissima* (esparto grass). Surrey Jacobs has said (*pers. comm.* to ROG) that whoever imported it "must have been out of their minds"; the misidentified nature of the material though suggests that they might be able to plead temporary unreliability. Plants have reached other nurseries in the wider Auckland region but at least two of these have agreed to destroy their stocks. Ford implies that naturalisation has occurred at a Tauranga nursery; it seems likely to us that this grass will soon be widespread.

References

Edgar, E., O'Brien, M. A., and Connor, H. E. 1991. Checklist of pooid grasses naturalised in New Zealand. 1. *N.Z. Journal of Botany 29*:101-116.

Edgar, E. and Shand, J. E. 1987. Checklist of panicoid grasses naturalised in New Zealand; with a key to the native and naturalised genera and species. *N.Z. Journal of Botany 25*:343-353.

Ford, K. 1994. *Stipa* sp.. Nasella tussock relation: "a potential weed!" *Weed Identification News No. 13.* Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd.

Vickery, J.W. 1961. *Contributions from the New South Wales Herbarium, Flora Series 19(1):* 1-124.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Dr Surrey Jacobs for checking the identify of our *Stipa tenuissima*, and to Mr Des Trafford, Mr Walter Stahel, and Mr Lance Vervoort for field information.

Figure

Left: *Andropogon virginicus* Spikelet; scale bar 0.5 mm. Spikelet at upper right x 5. Specimen is AK 97939.

Right: *Stipa tenuissima* Spikelets, RH one without glumes; scale bar 0.5 mm. Spikelet at extreme right x 5. Specimen is AK 221059.