known as pampas grass, is common about Auckland, and in the Waitakeres tends to invade roadsides, power line and timber track clearings. It is easily distinguished from toetoe by its upright pink inflorescence. In the native types the flower heads have a pale cream or buff tint and a drooping habit. As the seeds ripen the flower colours bleach to white but the upright or drooping habit remains to assist identification.

SOME EXOTIC WATER WEEDS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Prof. V.J. CHAPMAN.

In recent years some exotic water weeds have achieved notoriety because of their explosive growth in some of our recreational waters, especially those in the central part of the North Island.

When the weeds first became apparent in the very early 1960's Miss Ruth Mason made a study of their distribution. Whilst their occurrence in the major bodies of waters is probably now well-documented there may still be smaller bodies of waters, especially farm ponds, where they have arrived but their prese nce has not been recorded. Members of the Botanical Society could well examine small bodies of water during their excursions in order to see if any of the species are present or not.

Those species which seem at present to be potential 'nuisance-makers' are as follows:

1. Elodea canadensis (Canadian pond weed).

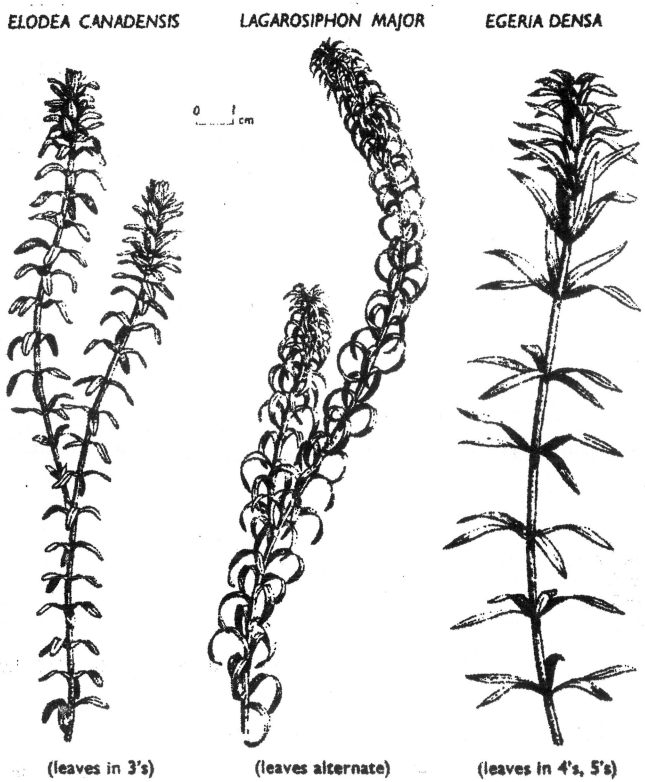
This is a well-known species and was undoubtedly introduced to aerate aquaria. It is the original "oxygen weed" and can be recognized by the leaves being in whorls of 3.

2. Egeria densa

This has also been termed "oxygen weed" but it is a very much more recent introduction. It is abundant in the lower Waikato River lakes and around Huntly. It is also present in Western Springs as also is Elodea. It is a larger plant than Elodea with longer leaves that are generally arranged in whorls of 4, though whorls of 5 can also be found.

3. Lagarosiphon major.

This is the weed that has become a nuisance in some of the Rotorua lakes. It differs from the preceding species in that the leaves are arranged spirally. These first three species are all members of the Hydrocharitacea.



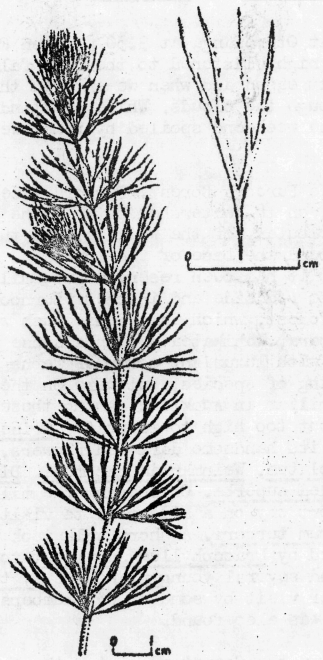
4. Ceratophyllum demersum (Coontail; Hornwort).

This is a free-floating plant and it does not have any roots. It can be confused at a casual glance with species of Myriophyllum but the leaves, arranged in whorls, are equally forked once or twice and have minute marginal dentations. This weed is currently a nuisance in the Waikato River lakes.

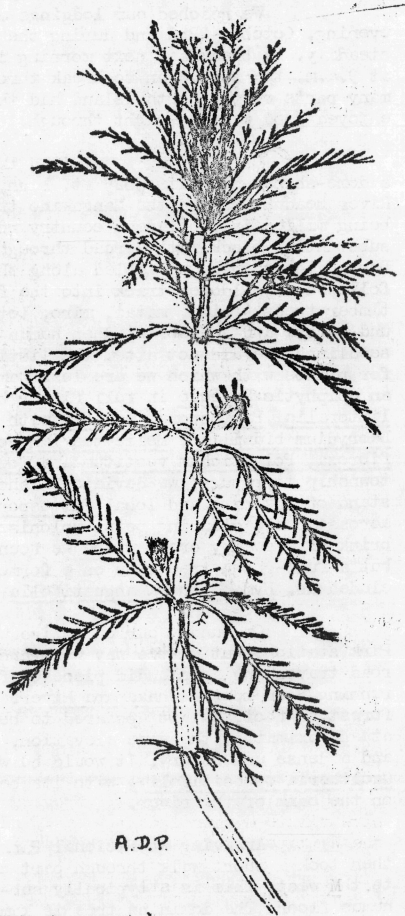
5. Myriophyllum brasiliense (Brazilian water milfoil).

This is a large species and differs from the native ones in that much of the greyish-green vegetative system is above water. It differs from the preceding plant in that the whorled leaves are pinnately divided. It occurs in Lake Rotoiti and also in Western Springs. It is becoming a nuisance in the Manawatu.

CERATOPHYLLUM DEMERSUM Hornwort



Myriophyllum brasiliense.



6. Alternanthera philoxeroides.(Alligator weed).

This species has made its appearance in North Auckland. It is essentially subtropical and has become a pest in Florida. It may be expected to spread in the Auckland province unless care is taken. It cannot survive unless its roots are firmly anchored in some submerged medium. It is therefore rare in depths below 1.5 - 2.5 m.