new street tree in Auckland. (NB *Bischofia javanica* is an invasive weed in Hawaii and Florida – *Ed*)

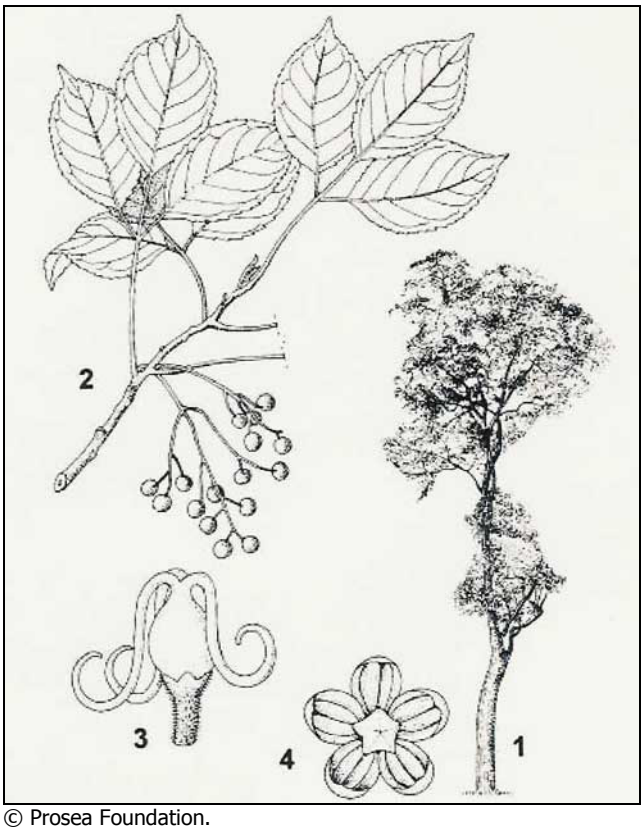

Figure 3. 1- habit, 2- foliage and fruit, 3- female flower with three styles, 4- male flower with five stamens (from Lemmens *et al*. 1995).

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Thanks to Ewen Cameron, Bill Sykes and Art Whistler for their collective contribution to identifying this tree in Auckland, to Landcare Research, Lincoln, for access to herbarium specimens from the Pacific Islands, and to John Whitehead and John Crowe for information.

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Needle- grasses and nasellas (sic) a comment

Henry E Connor

Should carpologist "Bal Fader" be in the need of another pseudonym, one could suggest "Analphabetos". In the June 2003 issue of the Auckland Botanical Society Journal 58(1) (pp.35-37) the generic name *Nassella* is spelled analphabetically, and consistently, as *Nasella* (Gardner 2003). The etymology is: nassa (f.), a wicker-basket with narrow neck; the gibbons floret of *N. trichotoma* comes to mind. II. Trop., of a dangerous place, A snare, net; should not apply. Nasus (m.) is The nose.

One might refer to illustrations already published for five of the ten taxa where the florets are complete (Jacobs et al. 1989). The illustration of Chilean needle grass, *N. neesiana* is, appropriately, of the Auckland provenance and not of the common form of var.

neesiana found in Marlborough and Hawke's Bay. There is a new "Guide to identification and management in Hawke's Bay" of Chilean needle grass by Michael Slay (2002), but since *N. neesiana* is not a problem in Auckland, the booklet is probably of general interest only.

The North Island distribution of nassella tussock, *N. trichotoma*, listed in Flora of New Zealand vol. 5. Gramaineae (Edgar & Connor 2000) was viewed circumspectly by Dr Gardner. The distribution statement was based on known occurrences: North Auckland- Topuni, Tahere, Matapouri, Whananaki; Auckland – Kawakawa Bay, Mangere; Coromandel Peninsula – Te Puru, Waitete Bay; Bay of Plenty – Opotiki; Waikato – Te Akau, Paeroa; Hawke's Bay – Tangoio, Tukituki. The exact state of those infestations is unknown to me now since the Interdepartmental Nassella Tussock Committee has long since been abandoned, and I am no longer in contact with Regional Councils.

Auckland has been relatively fortunate in the number and kind of stipoid grasses that could become weedy. *Austrostipa rudis* subsp. *rudis*, and *Nassella neesiana* are not problems, and the Province is untroubled by falcate *Austrostipa*. The surprise was *N. tenuissima*, and its recent expansion; it was unknown in New Zealand when Connor et al. (1993) wrote on the ecology and distribution of naturalised species of *Stipa* here.

It is probably of no concern to Aucklanders that the straggling, bamubusiform, uncommon endemic *Microlaena polynoda* was frequently recommended by ecologically-minded horticulturalist and landscape architects for planting in dry parts of Christchurch, and Canterbury. That recommendation constantly perplexed me. The grass that was intended is *Anemanthele lessoniana*, monotypic and endemic, widely and abundantly planted in its pre-weed state. Where that error in identification originated is unknown; herbarium specimens were not exempt.

I am grateful to Dr Rhys Gardner for the positive authenticated record of *Austrostipa ramosissima*; Kirk (1878) had incorrectly implied that it was already here. It and *N. tenuissima* are welcomed to the list in Edgar et al. (1991) of naturalised species.

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