

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FLORA OF TASMANIA.

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CHENOPODIUM CARINATUM, R. Br.

(Keeled Goose-foot.)

A much-branched strong-smelling glandular-pubescent herb; stems usually decumbent at the base, erect or ascending above, 6-18 in. long. Leaves on slender petioles; blade variable in size, $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long or more, oblong-lanceolate to oblong or ovate-oblong, obtuse, cuneate at the base, sinuate-lobed or pinnatifid, rather thick, both surfaces rough, with glandular pubescence.

Flowers small, very copiously produced, in dense glomerules, occupying almost all the axils, sometimes elongated into short, leafy spikes.

Perianth-segments 5, erect, incurved over the fruit, more or less glandular-pubescent. Stamen usually 1. Utricle small, compressed, erect, the pericarp adherent to the seed.*

This plant was first discovered by the writer at Buckland, on the East Coast, in the autumn of 1912, and later on in that year at Rokeby. It is recorded as indigenous to all the States of the Commonwealth, including New Zealand and New Caledonia, and, no doubt, it is growing elsewhere in Tasmania, but overlooked on account of its resemblance to other members of Chenopodiaceae already recorded in "Rodway's Tasmanian Flora." The plant on both occasions was found growing in arable land of a light, loamy character, which circumstance would at first incline one to the belief that its seed had been introduced originally with agricultural seed from one of the other States or New Zealand. If this were so, one would naturally ask the question: Why is it not extant in our general farm lands, seeing that it produces such an abundance of fertile seed, exceeding that of *C. album*, L., and *C. murale*, L., which are closely related to it, and which are plentiful in our cultivated areas, and waste places? As a rule, for a

*"Manual of the New Zealand Flora," by T. F. Cheeseman, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

variety of reasons, we do not find many of our native plants becoming weeds on arable land, but from this plant's vigorous, and copious seed-producing propensity, and being able to withstand, unlike many other native plants, the drastic treatment meted out to the soil by farm implements, it bids fair to become a healthy rival to weeds of Continental origin, that farmers have to contend with, but, being an annual, it calls for no alarm, because rotation of crops and thorough and systematic cultivation should effectually dislodge it.

CAREX BICHENOVIANA, Boott.

This sedge was found by the writer in a damp situation, near the pinnacle of Mt. Direction, in the proximity of Risdon, during the early summer of 1911. Mr. Rodway included the description thereof in his "Tasmanian Flora," but added the footnote "Inserted from record only. Doubtful." The finding of this specimen will now remove the doubt.