

ADDITIONS TO TASMANIAN FLORA.

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Before the year closes I am anxious to place on record a brief description of three interesting plants. Of these two are new species, the other doubtless introduced.

Ranunculus setaceus. *ns* — A small glabrous, tufted perennial with numerous, fairly stout, long, fibrous roots. Leaves numerous setaceous, but slightly flattened, simple or with one pair of filiform simple lobes towards the apex, 1—3 in. long, apices sometimes tipped with glands, base rather broad sheathing. Flower solitary on a slender peduncle, always shorter than the leaves, sometimes very short. Flower rather small, yellow, sepals broadly ovate, erect, pointed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines long. Petals scarcely exceeding the sepals, usually 5—6, very narrow, oblong, blunt, gland about the middle. Stamens very variable in number in proportion to robustness of habit. Achenes not numerous, somewhat flattened, smooth, style slightly curved; ripe achenes more swollen with a sharply recurved style; receptacle short, conical, beset with bristles. Not at all or sparsely stoloniferous.

In mud and under water in and about pools on the Ironstone Range, alt. 3,000ft.

The plant flowers freely under water, and does not when permanently submerged depart in any manner from the sub-aerial form.

I have described this plant as a new species only after mature consideration. Its relationship to *R. rivularis*, Banks. *et* Sol., is undoubted, but if it is taken as an extreme variety of that species where are we to draw the line? This plant is very close to *R. millani*, F. V. M. and *R. robertsoni*, B., and if these are included with *R. rivularis* we shall also have to take in many New Zealand and S. American plants. Even with this extensive clubbing the species would be still ill-defined, and the mass of varieties would be unworkable.

Pseudanthus tasmanicus. *ns* — A prostrate, wiry, much-branched spreading undershrub, 1—2 ft. long. Dioecious. Young parts tuberculato-hispid. Leaves alternate, broadly ovate to orbicular, sometimes with a small blunt point, other times slightly emarginate, 1—2 lines long on a slender petiole of similar length. Stipules scarious, sheathing blunt, often abruptly truncate $\frac{1}{2}$ —1 line long. Male flowers solitary in the upper axils, pale green. Perianth lobes equal or nearly

so, ovate, blunt, 1 line long; pedicel slender, 1 line long. Stamens 8, filaments slender, $\frac{3}{4}$ line long, anthers pink, broadly ovate small. Pistil rudimentary, but well developed. Female flower similar to the males, but the perianth lobes slightly longer and red at the base. Staminodes small, 8. Pistil flask-shaped, longer than broad obscurely, 3-lobed, tapering into a short style; stigma capitate, tuberculate irregularly 3-lobed. Ovule solitary and occupying the entire ovarian cavity at time of flowering. Fruit not seen.

Among and about basalt rocks on the shores of Lake Lucy Long on the Ironstone Range and on the banks of the South Esk, near Avoca.

Rumex dumosus, A. Cunn.—Basal leaves few, soon withered, oblong narrow pointed, constricted as in *R. pulcher*, petiole as long as leaf. Stem leaves sessile, small slender subtending branches and flower clusters. Stem erect, very branched and spreading. Flowers very few together in distant clusters, often solitary, pedicels slender 1—2 lines long. Inner perianth segments becoming rigid, acute, and reticulated bordered with few, usually 2, prominent spines, not developing a tubercle.

Occasionally found on the roadsides in many parts of Tasmania, and probably introduced from the mainland, where it occurs in south-eastern districts. It is confined to Australia, unless it is, as Von Mueller considered, a form of *R. flexuosus*, Sol., of New Zealand. This dock may easily be taken for *R. pulcher* or *R. brownii*, from both of which it differs, however, in the much more branched habit, few flowers in the clusters, and few spines to the margins of the mature inner perianth lobes.