spection of the $R_f$ values of the red dyes in Tables I and II show that these two dyes are in reality not identical since the $R_f$ values are significantly different at the higher pH values. It should also be noted that the $R_f$ values of the yellow dyes are essentially the same at each pH value.

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## Parapholis incurva and Chloris polydactyla in Texas

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The establishment of the grass *Parapholis incurva* (L.) C. E. Hubb. along the Gulf Coast of Texas has been brought to the attention of the writer by recent collections at Port Arthur, Jefferson County (*W. J. Waldrip 139*), and High Island, Chambers County (*F. W. Gould 6770*). By coincidence the two collections were made the same day, April 19, 1955, on independent field excursions by members of the Texas A. & M. College, Department of Range and Forestry. A check of the Herbarium of Southern Methodist University by Dr. Lloyd Shinners revealed two earlier Texas collections, one from near Bayside, Refugio County (*Eula Whitehouse 21209*, in 1949), and one from near Texas City, Galveston County (*B. L. Turner 1813*, in 1950). Dr. Turner states that a specimen of the latter collection is also in the University of Texas Herbarium.

*Parapholis*, commonly known as "sickle grass," has been introduced into this country from Europe. The 1950 edition of Hitchcock's "Manual of the Grasses of the United States" reports its occurrence on mud flats and salt marshes along the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Virginia, and on the Pacific Coast in California and Oregon.

Collections of *Chloris polydactyla* (L.) Swartz made near Edna, Jackson County, in 1932 *(W. A. Silveus 524,* April 15*)* and in 1955 (*F. W. Gould 6781,* April 20) are the first records of this perennial bunchgrass growing spontaneously in Texas. At the site of the Gould collection, four miles east of Edna, it was growing in a vigorous stand along a roadside ditch and adjacent fence row. The range of *Chloris polydactyla* is stated in Hitchcock's Manual as "southern Florida; West Indies to Paraguay." It is almost certain that this *Chloris* is present in Texas as an introduction, rather than a native species. Two specimens in Tracy Herbarium of Texas A. & M. College were collected from plants grown under cultivation at Angleton about thirty years ago (*H. Ness,* in 1926). Another specimen in the Tracy Herbarium is from plants growing in Hensel's Grass Nursery at College Station (*R. G. Reeves,* in 1940).

## Behavior of Natrix in Aggregations

*Donald W. Tinkle and Ernest A. Liner*[1]

Literature-reports and two recent observations in southern Louisiana offer an explanation of the aggregations of *Natrix* often reported in this area.

At 1145 hours on April 10, 1954, two *Natrix sipedon confluens* were observed swimming in a small pool in Sarpy Wildlife Refuge, a cypress-gum swamp in St. Charles Parish, 15 miles NW. of New Orleans on U.S. Hwy. 61. The movements of these snakes formed a pattern. They swam back and forth across the pond, coming at frequent intervals to the shore line with continual flickering of the tongue. At times, one snake would approach the other, hesitate briefly beside it, and then move away in a diagonal course to continue swimming.

These two water snakes were joined by three more *Natrix s. confluens.* All five snakes participated in the pattern. Two more *Natrix s. confluens* soon entered the group, and within ten minutes the total number was increased to ten. Approaches to one another became more numerous. The encounters were brief; in one instance, a bite by one of the pair terminated the relation.

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