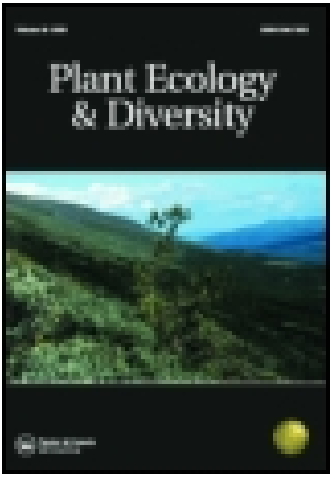
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VII. Notes on Carex paniculata

Mr M'Nab

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VII. *Note on* Carex paniculata. By Mr M'Nab.

The Royal Botanic Garden has recently been presented with three plants of *Carex paniculata*, sent by Mr Archibald Gorrie, forester to the Earl of Leicester, Holkham Hall, Norfolk. The plants measure, from the base of the roots to the extreme points of the leaves, 8 feet 6 inches, independent of what must have been cut off in the lifting. They have been growing in deep rich soil, as 3 feet of the lower portion of each has been bared of the peat; the part remaining is filled up with a mass of longitudinal roots or fibres, each nearly half an inch round.

The circumference of the upper root portion of the largest plant is 5 feet 3 inches, from which a large crown of leaves proceeds. One of the plants has an upright stem above the peat, 1 foot 9 inches long, and 3 feet 6 inches in circumference, composed of the dead portions of the leaves; from the top of this pseudo-stem the large tuft of leaves is growing. The stem of this plant between the leaves and the peat has the lower base of the fallen leaves quite short and brown, appearing as if they had been destroyed by fire.

It is impossible to calculate the age of these gigantic sedges; but, judging from the quantity of decayed leaves round the base of each plant, and the way the peat seems to grow or rise round them, they must be at least a century old. Very few fruit spikes were observed, and of those found, the heads were comparatively small, the largest not more than 2½ inches long. Some idea may be formed of the size and weight of these plants from the fact that it required three men to lift each of them.

Mr Gorrie writes—"We have some taller and heavier plants than any of those sent. I observe they grow strongest when the roots get into the water. I am told, when foxes abound, they are very fond of lying on the top of the Carex tussocks, and basking in the sun. This gigantic Carex is very common on sodden peaty soils in Norfolk. I have also seen it at the Duke of Grafton's, and at other places in Suffolk, likewise near Bury St Edmunds."

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