

<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	curled dock	<i>Thyridia repens</i> (syn. <i>Mimulus repens</i>)	native monkey musk
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> *	broad-leaved dock	<i>Torilis arvensis</i> *	spreading hedge parsley
<i>Rumex pulcher</i> *	fiddle dock	<i>Trifolium arvense</i> *	haresfoot trefoil
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	pearlwort	<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i> *	strawberry clover
<i>Sagina procumbens</i> *	procumbent pearlwort	<i>Trifolium pratense</i> *	red clover
<i>Samolus repens</i>	sea primrose, maakoako	<i>Trifolium repens</i> *	white clover
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	glasswort	<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i> *	Persian clover, reversed clover
<i>Selliera radicans</i>	remuremu	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i> *	subterranean clover
<i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> *	scentless mayweed
<i>Senecio esleri</i>	hairy groundsel	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> *	garden nasturtium, Indian cress
<i>Senecio skirrhodon</i> *	gravel groundsel	<i>Urtica urens</i> *	stinging nettle
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> *	groundsel	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> *	woolly mullein, flannel plant
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> *	field madder	<i>Verbascum virgatum</i> *	moth mullein
<i>Silybum marianum</i> *	variegated thistle	<i>Verbena brasiliensis</i> *	Brazilian vervain
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> *	hedge mustard	<i>Verbena incompta</i> *	purple top
<i>Solanum americanum</i>	small-flowered nightshade	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> *	water speedwell
<i>Solanum chenopodioides</i> *	velvety nightshade	<i>Veronica arvensis</i> *	field speedwell
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> *	black nightshade	<i>Veronica peregrina</i> subsp. <i>peregrina</i> *	wandering speedwell
<i>Solanum opacum</i>	green-berry nightshade	<i>Veronica persica</i> *	scrambling speedwell
<i>Sonchus asper</i> *	prickly sow thistle	<i>Vicia disperma</i> *	small French tare
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	sow thistle, puha	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i> *	hairy vetch
<i>Spergula arvensis</i> *	corn spurrey	<i>Vicia sativa</i> *	vetch
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	sea spurrey	<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i> *	smooth tare
<i>Spergularia rubra</i> *	sand spurrey	<i>Vinca major</i> *	periwinkle
<i>Stachys arvensis</i> *	stagger weed, field woundwort	<i>Viola arvensis</i> *	field pansy
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i> *	hedge woundwort	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i> *	clotbur, Bathurst bur
<i>Stellaria media</i> *	common stitchwort, chickweed		
<i>Suaeda novae-zelandiae</i>	sea blite		
<i>Symphotrichum subulata</i> (syn. <i>Aster subulatus</i>) *	sea aster		

Occurrence of the grass *Brachypodium sylvaticum* at Thames

Mike Wilcox

Slender false brome or wood perennial brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) is a European forest grass (Hubbard 1954) that has become naturalised in New Zealand (Edgar & Connor 2010). There are herbarium records of it from the Kaikoura coast in the South Island (Conway River, Kowhai River), from Hawkes Bay (Tiniroto), and Auckland (Albany, Waitakere Ranges, Waiheke Island). The first published mention of it being in New Zealand is probably Smith (1903), though Thomson (1922) records it from near Dunedin in 1897. Its favoured habitat is shaded open forest.

In March 2019 I came across a large population of this grass in the historic Shortland Cemetery, Thames. This picturesque cemetery was opened in the 1870s but there have been no burials for many years. It is on steep ground overlooking the Firth of Thames and has numerous planted pedunculate oak trees (*Quercus robur*) and several old Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*) amongst the graves. The grass was growing in dense stands beside access paths through the pine and oak trees in the cemetery (Fig. 1), in places with other grasses, namely smilo grass (*Piptatherum*



Fig. 1. *Brachypodium sylvaticum* at the Shortland Cemetery, Thames. Photo: M. Wilcox, 9 Mar 2019.



Fig. 2. *Brachypodium sylvaticum* racemes have slender spikelets. Photo: M. Wilcox, 9 Mar 2019.

miliaceum), plume grass (*Dichelachne crinita*), and *Phalaris aquatica*.

Records of *Brachypodium sylvaticum* from Auckland are few: Anderson Track, Waitakere Ranges, *A.E. Esler*, 1 Jan 1973, AK 362726; Spencer Road, Albany, under pines, *A.E. Esler & S. Astridge*, 20 Jan 1975, AK 216746; Anderson Track, Waitakere Ranges, *J. Mackinder*, 28 Dec 1981, AK 165771–72; Anderson Track, Waitakere Ranges, *J. Mackinder*, 30 Dec 1981, AK 162669; Opopo Bay, Waiheke Island, *C. Kilgour*, Jan 2003, AK 280124; Anderson Track,

Waitakere Ranges, *P.J. Bellingham*, 30 Dec 2015, AK 360168. The occurrence in Thames is apparently the first record of it from the Thames-Coromandel area. Judging by its abundance it has been present in the Shortland Cemetery for a long time.

In the field this grass stands out from other grasses by its broad, bright green soft leaves; by the tall and nodding flowering and seeding culms; and by the slender inflorescences (Fig. 2). A sample has been deposited in the Auckland Museum Herbarium (*M.D. Wilcox*, 9 Mar 2019, AK 376560).

References

- Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2010: *Flora of New Zealand. Volume V, Grasses, 2nd edition*. Lincoln: Manaaki Whenua Press.
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 Smith, W.W. 1903: Plants naturalised in the County of Ashburton. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 36: 203-225.
 Thomson, G.M. 1922: *The naturalization of animals and plants in New Zealand*. Cambridge: The University Press.