

# Manual of the New Zealand Flora.djvu/836



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NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS: Dry hills from the North Cape to Banks Peninsula, but not common to the south of Cook Strait. Sea-level to 2000 ft.

Also in the Sandwich Islands.

## 12. **OREOBOLUS**, [R. Br.](#)

Dwarf perennial herbs, forming dense cushion-shaped masses in alpine bogs. Stems branched, very closely compacted, leafy throughout. Leaves numerous, close-set, distichous and equitant, more rarely irregularly imbricate all round. Peduncle axillary, short at first but lengthening after the flowers expand, strict, compressed, bearing a terminal spikelet with or without 1 or 2 lateral ones. Spikelets minute, narrow, 1-flowered; flower hermaphrodite. Glumes 3 or rarely 4, the outer the largest, the second and third subequal, the fourth when present small, not much longer than the nut. Hypogynous scales (perianth-segments) 6, in 2 series, subequal, narrow, rigid, erect. Stamens 3. Style slender, continuous with the ovary; branches 3. Nut obovoid, obtuse with a depressed star-like mark at the apex, smooth.

In addition to the 2 species described below, one of which extends to Victoria and Tasmania, there is also one in Andine and antarctic America, and another in

the Sandwich Islands.

Leaves obscurely distichous. Peduncle shorter than the leaves; spikelets usually 2, rarely 1 or 3 1. *O. pumilio*.

Leaves conspicuously distichous. Peduncle often equalling or exceeding the leaves in fruit; spikelets usually 1 1A. *O. pumilio* var. *pectinatus*.

Leaves obscurely distichous, very narrow, strict. Peduncle shorter than the leaves; spikelets usually 1 2. *O. strictus*.

1. **O. pumilio**, *R. Br. Prodr.* 236.—Stems much branched, short,  $\frac{1}{2}$ –2 in. high, forming broad and dense cushion-shaped masses. Leaves obscurely distichous,  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, erect or incurved, rarely spreading, narrow-linear, narrowed towards the obtuse tip, concave or almost flat in front, veinless or indistinctly 3-nerved; margins minutely serrulate; sheaths equitant, membranous, 3-nerved. Peduncles stout, rigid, mostly shorter than the leaves; spikelets usually 2, rarely 3 or 1. Glumes 3–4; the outer one the largest, leaf-like, 3-nerved; the second and third about equal; the fourth, when present, minute, not much exceeding the nut. Hypogynous scales narrow-lanceolate, acute, serrulate. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut small, obovoid. obtuse, whitish or brownish.—*Hook. f. Handb. N.Z. Fl.* 308; *Fl. Tasm.* ii. 94; *Benth. Fl. Austral.* vii. 346.

SOUTH ISLAND: Nelson—Mount Rochfort and other mountains near Westpost, *Townson!* Westland—Arthur's Pass, *T.F.C.*; Kelly's Hill, *Petrie!* Worsley's Pass, *Cockayne!* Otago—Mountains above Lake Harris, *Kirk!* 2000–4000 ft.



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