

NEW COLLECTIONS OF SOME RARE PLANTS
OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO

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SUMMARY

New collection records are given for species native to Tierra del Fuego for which only one or two specimens were known. Species cited are *Spergularia marina* (L.) Gris. *Adesmia boronoides* Hook. f. *Frankenia chubutensis* Speg. and *Chilophyllum fuegianum* O. Hoffm. A discussion of habitat and similarity to other species is given for the latter.

Four hundred and thirty indigenous species are listed by Moore (1974) in his *Catalogue of the Vascular Plants Native to Tierra del Fuego*. Several of these species were recorded only once or twice for the archipelago, usually over 80 years ago, and have never been found again. Due to the rarity of some of these species south of the Strait of Magellan, it seems worth while to mention new finding in this area. It is also worthy of note that these rare species are mostly from the northern part of the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, where, until recently, little collection was done since Dusén (in 1896-1897). For example, *Nardophyllum bryoides* (Lam.) Cabr. is very common all over the northern steppe, but had not been collected since 1897. It is not a very obvious plant except during the flowering season in November.

Spergularia marina (L.) Griseb.

This species, common in coastal areas of Europe and the Americas (Moore, 1974) has been cited for Tierra del Fuego only from one locality near a stream mouth at Estancia Viamonte (Moore and Goodall, 1974). It was found to be common in the sandy areas of the upper beach (20 to 30 mt from the sea) at Bahía Felipe, just west of the mouth of the Río del Oro.

¹ Sarmiento 44, 9410 Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Material examined

CHILE. Tierra del Fuego: Bahía Felipe, west of the Río del Oro, 3-VI-1978, Goodall 5214, 3-VI-1978 (BAB, HIP, NA, RNPG)².

Adesmia boronoides Hook. f.

This large semi-woody plant, known commonly in Patagonia as "Paramela", was found in Tierra del Fuego by Spegazzini in 1882 at Punta Anegada and by Dusén at the Río Cullen in 1897 (Spegazzini, 1896; Dusén, 1900). No further Fuegian records are known.

Despite careful searching, this species was not found at the above localities, but it has recently been discovered on the shores of Bahía Lomas, near Cabo Orange, to the southeast of Punta Anegada. The plants formed a continuous line along the upper part of the narrow beach south of the cape. Although common in Santa Cruz (Wildeman, 1905), this is the only modern site so far known on Tierra del Fuego.

It was also seen at Punta Delgada, on the north side of the Strait of Magellan, where it was collected by Dusén in 1897.

Material examined

CHILE. Tierra del Fuego: Estancia Pepita, near Baliza Cabo Orange, Bahía Lomas, Goodall 5209, 29-V-1978 (BAB, HIP, NA, RNPG).

Frankenia chubutensis Speg.

This species was recorded from Tierra del Fuego by Dusén in 1897 at Río del Oro and Río Cullen (Dusén, 1900; Wildeman, 1905). Much more recently, Dollenz (1977) and Pisano (1976) mentioned this plant from Punta Espora, on the south side of the First Narrows, where the plants were covered with oil from the September, 1974, *Metula* oil spill. We also collected plants from this site, as well as from near the beach on the north side of the Strait of Magellan at the First Narrows (Punta Delgada), where Dusén found it.

New records are from Bahía Lomas, to the southeast of the First Narrows. In all cases, the plants were within 500 meters of the beach in low, swampy or saline areas.

² RNPG refers to the author's herbarium in Tierra del Fuego.

Material examined

CHILE. Tierra del Fuego: Punta Espora, near Punta Anegada, Strait of Magellan. Shores of tidal inlet at base of sand dunes, Oil covered, Goodall & Lutkin 108, 25-II-1975 (BAB, CHR, HIP, MO, NA, RNPG); Bahía Lomas SE part of bay, swampy area 40 m from bay, Goodall 5203, 28-V-1978 (BAB, HIP, NA, RNPG); Bahía Lomas, south side of bay, near Estancia Cuarto Chorrillo, Goodall 5208, 29-V-1978 (HIP, RNPG).

Chilophyllum fuegianum O. Hoffmann

This is a large endemic bush known only from a very restricted area in the northern section of Argentine Tierra del Fuego. It was first collected by Bruno Ansoorge sometime between 1891 and 1896 at Río Cullen (Dusén, 1900). It was not found again until 1955, when it was collected by J. H. Hunziker at Estancia San Martín (Cabrera, 1971), some kilometers to the south. Cabrera (1971) calls this plant "especie endémica de la región oriental de la Tierra del Fuego. Parece ser muy escasa".

In 1971, this rare plant was collected at the Arroyo Beta and a year later Moore and Goodall found it at the type locality and the Arroyo Alfa. More recently, the species has been found near Bahía Inútil and at Bahía Lomas, near the eastern entrance to the Strait of Magellan. These are the first collections known from Chile and extend the range about 65 kms to the west to more than double the range of the species.

Material examined

ARGENTINA. Estancia San Martín, J. H. Hunziker 6827, 6-II-1955 (BAB, LP); Ea. Cullen, Arroyo Beta, Goodall 3249, 7-I-1971 (BAB, LP, MICH, MU, NA, RNPG, SI, UC); Ea. Cullen, N side, Río Cullen, 2 km from beach, Moore & Goodall 356, 5-I-1972 (BAB, MICH, MU, NA, RNPG); Ea. Cullen, N side Río Cullen, near beach, Goodall 4296, 19-V-1972 (AAH, BAB, MU, NA, RNPG); Ea. Cullen Arroyo Alfa, S side, Goodall 4302, 20-V-1972 (AAH, BAB, RNPG); Ea. Cullen, Arroyo Beta, beach, Goodall 5053, RNPG; Ea. Cullen dump N side of Río Cullen, Goodall 5167, 1-VI-1977 (HIP, RNPG). CHILE, Bahía Inútil, S of Río Marazzi, Goodall 5168, 25-VII-1977 (BAB, HIP, NA, RNPG); Bahía Inútil, 7 kms W of Puerto Nuevo, Goodall 5171, 26-VII-1977 (BAB, HIP, RNPG); Bahía Lomas, SE part of bay, Goodall 5204, 28-V-1978 (HIP, RNPG); Bahía Lomas, near Ea. Cuarto Chorrillo, Goodall 5207, 29-V-1978 (BAB, HIP, RNPG); Ea. Pepita, near Cabo Orange, 1.5 km from Bahía Lomas, Goodall 5210, 29-V-1978 (BAB, RNPG); Punta Espora, 1 km from Strait of Magellan, along road, Goodall 5211, 29-V-1978 (HIP, RNPG).

Obs. — From the Argentinian collections (Estancia Cullen) it appeared that the plant preferred bottom lands near the mouths of rivers, usually in somewhat protected valleys. There it was found

no more than two kms from the sea and no more than a few meters above sea level.

The Chilean specimens from Bahía Inútil were at a slight elevation; RNP 5168, found south of the Río Marazzi, was at an elevation of about 45 m on steep hills having a northwest exposure. The specimens from Puerto Nuevo were on a high meseta several kms from the sea.

This plant was included by Reiche (1902: 277) in his Flora de Chile, on the basis of the Río Cullen collection by Ansoorge ("Fuegia Orientalis"), assuming that the plant was also found in Chile, although no collections had been made at that time (Wildeman, 1905). Although it is a large bush (to just over 1 m tall), this plant can be difficult to distinguish in its native habitat. It very closely resembles *Chiliotrichium diffusum* (Forst.) O.K. (known as *mata negra* or *fachine* in Tierra del Fuego) from which it differs, at first glance, by having much smaller, more gray-green leaves and laxer clusters of flowers which are off white or faintly yellowish instead of white, as in the *mata negra*.

Although much lighter in color, at a distance the bushes are also very similar to *Lepidophyllum cupressiforme* (Lam.) Cass., which is of a dark yellowish green. In nearly all cases where I have seen it, *Chiliotrichium* was closely associated with, and growing scattered among, plants of both *Chiliotrichium* and *Lepidophyllum*. However, the last two collections in the previous list, near the Strait of Magellan, were stands of *Chiliotrichium* and *Lepidophyllum* without the presence of *Chiliotrichium*. In all cases, *Chiliotrichium* was the least numerous species present. *Chiliotrichium fuegianum*, like its two companions, flowers in January and ripe fruit is still found on the bushes in May, although it is usually gone by June. Almost certainly this plant is mucho more common and its range more extensive than formerly thought. Its restricted habitat—to rather salty areas fairly near the sea—and its similarity to the very common *Chiliotrichium diffusum*, make it easy to overlook. Careful searching should yield many more sites in northern Tierra del Fuego and probably in southern Patagonia.

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