

## 12. *Uncinia*

### *Uncinia nemoralis* K.L. Wilson, sp. nov.

*U. rupestris* affinis sed foliis longioribus, utriculis bracteas subaequantibus, differt.

TYPE: NEW SOUTH WALES: Northern Tablelands: Barrington Tops, L. Fraser & J. Vickery, 7 Jan 1934; holo NSW 38410; iso BRI, L, MEL, NT, P, PH, WELT.

Erect, tufted perennial with very short rhizome. Culms triquetrous to trigonous, occasionally scabrous near apex, very slender, 20–55 cm high, 0.3–0.5(–0.7) mm diam. Leaves basal, flat, exceeding culms, 1.6–2.2 mm wide. Inflorescence spike-like with spikelets not densely crowded on the axis, 4–6 cm long, including male portion 8–14 mm long. Spikelets unisexual, 1-flowered. Female bracts deciduous, acute, straw-coloured, membranous, faintly few-nerved, 3.5–4 mm long. Stamens 3; anthers c. 1.8 mm long. Style 3-fid. Utricles trigonous, narrow-ellipsoid, scarcely spreading, glabrous, smooth, yellow-brown, about as long as subtending bract, 4.7–6 mm long, 1–1.5 mm diam.; rachilla protruding from utricle for 5–6.5 mm, strongly hooked at apex. Nut trigonous, narrow-ellipsoid, yellow-brown, glistening, minutely pusticulate, c. 3 mm long, 1–1.3 mm diam. Figure 9a.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Grows on the higher coastal ranges south from near Wauchope to the Gippsland region of Victoria; in rainforest and tall sclerophyll forest, often along creeks.

DERIVATION OF EPITHET: From the Latin *nemus, nemoris*, a wood, referring to the occurrence of the species in forests.

NOTES: The species belongs to section *Uncinia* series *Compactae*, which includes a number of morphologically very similar forest-dwelling species in Australia and New Zealand (Hamlin 1958). It differs from *U. rupestris* Raoul of New Zealand in having leaves about as long as the inflorescence (shorter in *U. rupestris*), and the utricle as long as or slightly shorter than the subtending bract (equalling or exceeding it in *U. rupestris*). The plants of *U. rupestris* are often shorter. The inflorescence of *U. nemoralis* is similar to those of the New Zealand species *U. gracilenta* Hamlin and *U. zotovii* Hamlin, but *U. gracilenta* differs in having rather shiny leaf sheaths, while the leaves are broader in *U. zotovii*.

SELECTED SPECIMENS SEEN: NEW SOUTH WALES: North Coast: Thumb Road, Mt Boss State Forest, Coveny 10880, 5 Nov 1980 (NSW, CANB, GENT, MEL, MO, PRE). South Coast: crossing of Cochrane Dam road over Rutherford Creek, near Pipers Lookout, Brown Mountain, Thiele, 11 Apr 1981 (NSW); Brown Mountain Creek, Bemboka State Forest, 8 km NW of Bemboka, Nunink 381, Mar 1982 (NSW). Northern Tablelands: Gloucester Tops, Coveny, Jan 1967 (NSW 96259).

VICTORIA: East Gippsland: Coast Range Road, 1 km SW of Hensleigh Creek, 19.4 km SW of Bendock, Forbes 370, May 1980 (MEL, NSW); Alfred National Park, Finck & Beaglehole 32539, Dec 1969 (MEL, NSW); Mt Drummer, below Princes Highway, c. 12 miles [20 km] E of Cann River, Melville 2834, Wakefield & Hunter, Jan 1953 (K, MEL, NSW).

### *Uncinia sulcata* K.L. Wilson, sp. nov.

*U. compactae* affinis sed foliis sulcatis crassioribus angustioribusque differt.

TYPE: NEW SOUTH WALES: Southern Tablelands: Rawson Pass, Kosciusko National Park, alt. 2091 m, R.G. Coveny 5367, 19 March 1974; holo NSW; iso C, CANB, CHR, K, MEL, NY, P.

Tufted perennial with short rhizome. Culms trigonous, stiff, smooth, 10–15 cm high, 1–1.3 mm diam. Leaves basal, stiff, erect, thickly U-shaped, often longer than culms,

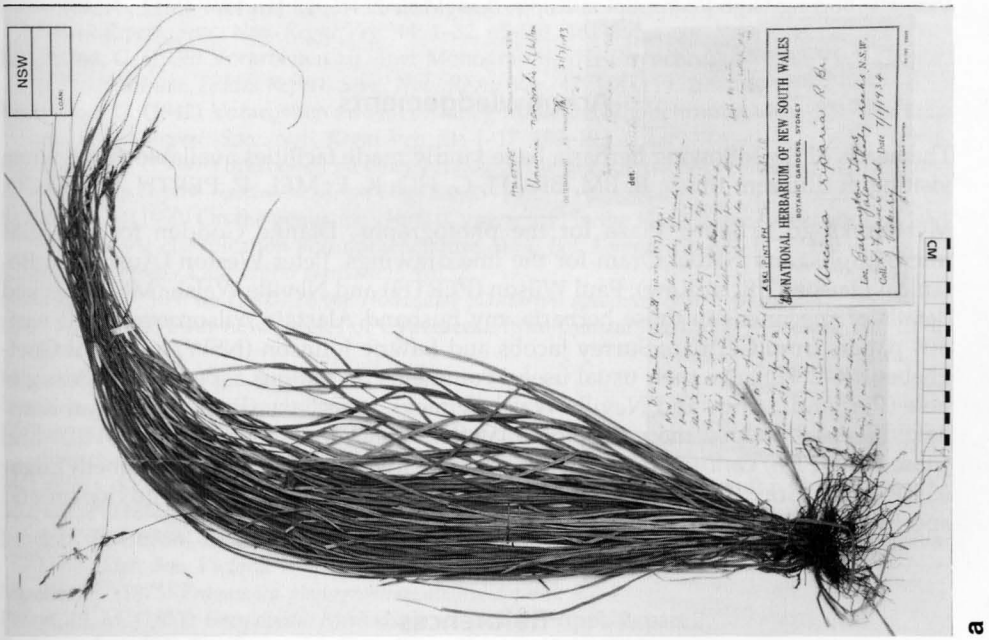
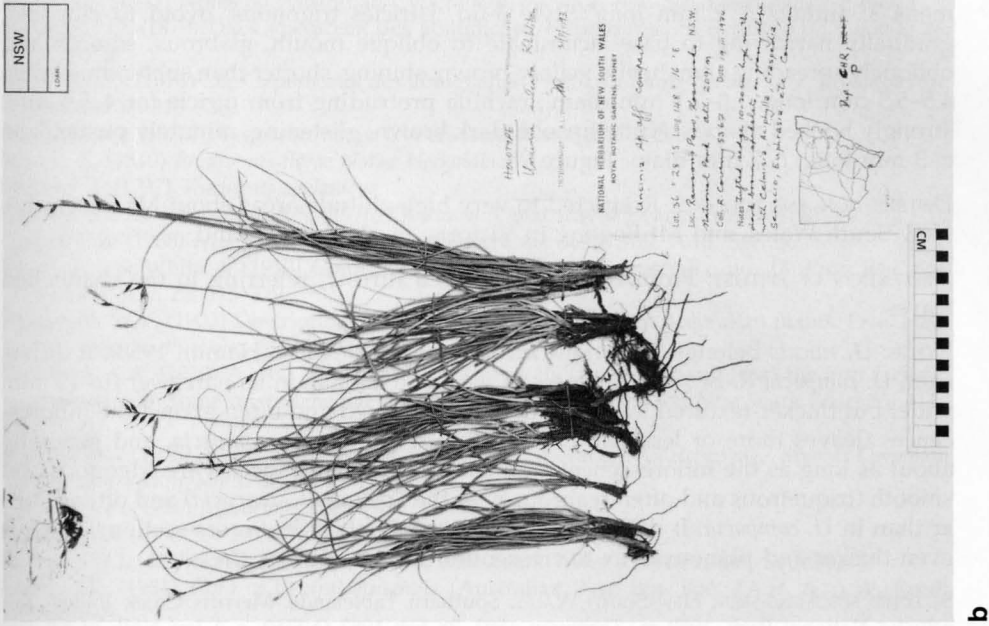


Figure 9. Holotypes of a, *Uncinia nemoralis* and b, *Uncinia sulcata*.

1–1.7 mm wide. Inflorescence spike-like with spikelets  $\pm$  densely crowded on the axis, 1.5–3 cm long including male portion 5–14 mm long. Spikelets unisexual, 1-flowered. Female bracts deciduous, acute, chartaceous, straw-coloured, 5.2–6.7 mm long. Stamens 3; anthers c. 2 mm long. Style 3-fid. Utricles trigonous, ovoid to ellipsoid, gradually narrowing to base, acuminate to oblique mouth, glabrous, smooth and obliquely spreading at maturity, yellow-brown, shining, shorter than subtending bract, 4.5–5.5 mm long, 1.8–2.1 mm diam.; rachilla protruding from utricle for 4–5.5 mm, strongly hooked at apex. Nut ellipsoid, dark brown, glistening, minutely pusticulate, c. 3 mm long, c. 2 mm diam. Figure 9b.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Restricted to very high altitude areas about Mt Kosciusko, New South Wales, and Mt Bogong in Victoria; in alpine grassland.

**DERIVATION OF EPITHET:** From the Latin *sulcus*, a furrow, referring to the channelled leaves.

**NOTES:** *U. sulcata* belongs to section *Uncinia* series *Compactae* (Hamlin 1958). It differs from *U. compacta* R. Br., which grows in the same habitat, in its narrower (to 1.7 mm wide) but thicker-textured leaves, which are U-shaped and often exceed the inflorescences (leaves more or less flat and to 3.3 mm wide in *U. compacta*, and generally about as long as the inflorescence). The culms of the new species are trigonous and smooth (triquetrous and often scabrous near the apex in *U. compacta*) and often shorter than in *U. compacta*. It differs from *U. nervosa* Boott in leaf cross-section, which is even thicker and plano-convex to crescentiform in *U. nervosa*.

**SELECTED SPECIMENS SEEN:** NEW SOUTH WALES: Southern Tablelands: Merritts Creek Valley, Kosciusko National Park, 1950 m, *Thompson 4502*, 28 Feb 1983 (NSW); c. 1 km NNE of Mt Kosciusko on Lake Albina track, *Wilson 2029*, 2 Feb 1979 (NSW); Mt Kosciusko–Lake Albina track, *Gray & Totterdell 6327*, 20 Feb 1969 (CANB, HO, MEL, NSW, P); near Snowy River bridge below Seamans Hut, Kosciusko area, *Gray et al. 6597*, 25 Feb 1972 (CANB); Lake Cootapatamba, Kosciusko [area], 6500 ft [2160 m], *Johnson & Constable*, 24 Jan 1951 (NSW 19531).

VICTORIA: Bogong High Plains, Spion Kopje, *Beauglehole 22316*, 23 Jan 1967 (MEL, NSW).

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### References

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