

There is a dry and a rainy season on the islands. The rainy season is from January to July, and the dry from July to December. In the dry season there is occasionally want of water, but it often falls heavily during this season, as it did during our stay, on September 2nd.

Fernando Noronha is used by the Brazilians as a convict settlement. Close to the base of the Peak is the citadel or small fort, on which the Brazilian flag was seen flying as we approached the shore, and beneath this are the convict buildings, a group of low huts, with the governor's house, a small church, and a long low building in which some of the convicts are locked up at night. Farther to the eastward on some low-lying land close to the beach is an old ruined fort, off which we anchored at about 4 P.M.

Captain Nares landed at once and paid a visit to the governor of the island to ask permission for our parties to land and explore, and I availed myself of permission to follow him on shore and hear the result of the interview. The surf was heavy on the sandy beach; one of our boats was upset in it, and I got a sea round me in landing, up to my neck.

I found the littoral blue-flowered convolvulus (*Ipomœa pes capræ*), so common in the West Indies and Cape Verde Islands, abundant on the shore. It was beset by a Dodder (*Cuscuta*), which parasite was seen twining round it everywhere in masses.

A horrible pest, a stinging plant, *Jatropha urens*, one of the *Euphorbiaceæ*, was very common. The plant has a thick green stem, and leaves resembling those of our common garden geraniums in shape, and a small white flower. The plant is covered with fine sharp white bristles, which sting most abominably. I lassoed a specimen with my knife-lanyard and kicked it up by the roots, and carried it on board carefully slung on a stick, but I got stung as I was putting it in paper to dry, though handling it with forceps, and the stinging sensation lasted for more than two days. The pain is like that produced by the nettle, but far more intense.

The path to the settlement led through the woods. The ground was covered with innumerable large black crickets (*Gryllus*). These are most astonishingly abundant, especially around the cultivated fields. The woods were also full of flocks of reddish brown doves (*Peristera Geoffroyi*), a species which occurs in Brazil, and has possibly been introduced into the island. They are in vast numbers, and, being scarcely ever shot at, are so tame that we had to throw stones at them to make them take wing. Many of them had nests and eggs, and they probably breed all the year round.

I saw also a small warbler (*Sylvia*), with greenish brown