

seems to dispute with the waves the possession of the soil. Such trees as *Bruguiera*, *Rhizophora*, *Ægiceras*, *Laguncularia*, *Sonneratia*, *Barringtonia* and *Calophyllum* actually advance into the sea in all directions. "Not only are their roots, and often portions of their trunks, immersed in the water, but their branching crowns incline in the same direction, and are bathed by the waves of the high tides. This phenomenon is specially observable in the case of *Calophyllum inophyllum* and *Barringtonia speciosa*, which even in such situations attain astonishing dimensions; and these trees were so crowded in some localities that landing was difficult." "Under these circumstances," he continues, "it is not surprising that the numerous currents which plough the Molucca Sea are charged with an immeasurable quantity of vegetable matter. Intermixed with seaweeds in these currents are leaves, flowers, and fruits, and even whole trees. Among flowers remarkable for their colour, for their number, or for their size, we distinguished those of several arboreous Apocynaceæ belonging to the genera *Plumeria* and *Tabernæmontana*; those of *Musa*, *Mucuna*, *Erythrina*, and *Portlandia*, and especially those of *Agati grandiflora* and *Spathodea longiflora*." Prominent among the fruits, he mentions the cocoa-nut, areca-nut, and those of various other palms; *Barringtonia speciosa*, *Eugenia malaccensis*, *Xylocarpus granatum*; the open follicles of two or three species of *Sterculia*; pods of *Galedupa* [*Pongamia*], *Dolichos*, *Abrus*, *Omphalobium*, *Agati*, and *Adenanthera*, invariably containing their seeds; the drupaceous, fleshy, or woody fruits of *Cycas*, *Terminalia*, *Heritiera*, *Calophyllum*, and three or four species of *Myristica*; the long capsules of some Bignoniaceæ; the tunicated fruit of *Hernandia sonora*, and, finally, the fleshy fruit of *Tabernæmontana aurantiaca*, which exactly resembles an orange in shape and colour.

Alphonse De Candolle,¹ who contends that oceanic currents have played a comparatively unimportant part in the diffusion of plants generally, nevertheless regards the sea as the conveying agent of many littoral plants from one country to another.

LIST OF PLANTS REGARDED BY A. DE CANDOLLE AS HAVING PROBABLY OR POSSIBLY BEEN DIFFUSED BY OCEANIC CURRENTS.

Origin probably American.

Naturalised in Africa only.

Drepanocarpus lunatus, Mey.
Ecastaphyllum brownei, Pers.
Mucuna urens, DC.
Ohrysoalanus icaco, Linn.
Telanthera maritima, Moq.

Alternanthera achyrantha, R. Br.
Iresine vermicularis, Moq.
Iresine aggregata, Moq.
Remirea maritima, Aubl.

Naturalised in Asia only.

Tephrosia piscatoria, Pers.

¹ *Geographie Botanique Raisonnée*, ii. p. 792-796.