

Here, as in so many Oceanic Islands, woody Compositæ are prominent among the endemic plants. Bentham¹ states that none of the Galapagos Compositæ show any tendency to the arborescent forms observable in the more isolated insular groups, but Andersson says "fifteen of the species are bushy, and several of them reach a height of eight to ten ells, and nearly as much in circumference, thus resembling small trees." What is more definite, he describes *Macræa laricifolia* as "fere biorgyalis," and *Scalesia decurrens* as "bi-triorgyalis;" heights not surpassed by many of the Juan Fernandez and St Helena arboreous members of the same Order. Four or five independent genera of Compositæ have been founded on Galapagos plants, but only two of them are retained in Bentham and Hooker's Genera Plantarum, the others being treated as sections of older genera; and the two retained (*Scalesia* and *Lecocarpus*) might without difficulty, Bentham remarks, have been referred to *Mirasolia* and *Melampodium* respectively. Altogether thirty-eight species of Compositæ are known from the group, and of these twenty-seven are endemic. Other Orders largely represented by endemic species are the Rubiaceæ, Boragineæ, Amarantaceæ, Euphorbiaceæ, and Gramineæ. Only two orchids, an *Epidendrum* and a *Govenia*, have been discovered. The affinities of the endemic element of the flora are entirely American; a very few species have congeners in the Sandwich Islands, such for instance as *Lipochata laricifolia* (*Macræa*), and not in America; but the singular arboreous Lobeliaceæ of the Sandwich Islands, which have their nearest affinities in America, are wholly wanting. Of the species common to the Galapagos and other countries, Andersson finds that forty-two of them are also found in Africa; forty in India and the Malayan Archipelago; fifteen in Australia; and forty-three are more or less widely spread in Polynesia.

THE SEYCHELLES.

This group consists of upwards of thirty islands, about 900 miles distant from Madagascar, the largest, Mahé, being seventeen miles long, and about 30,000 acres in area, with an altitude of 3000 feet. According to Baker (Flora of Mauritius, Preface, p. 16*), the number of wild flowering plants and ferns then (1877) known to grow in the Seychelles was 338, of which sixty are endemic. Besides the sixty endemic species, between twenty and thirty are characteristic Mascarene types, and the remaining 250 mostly plants of wide dispersion. The composition of the endemic element in the flora of the Seychelles is totally different from that of any other oceanic group, yet it is not less remarkable. Out of the sixty endemic species, fourteen are Rubiaceæ, two are Compositæ, two are Orchideæ, three are *Pandanus*, and six are vascular cryptogams. With the exception of *Medusagyne oppositifolia*, a monotypic genus of the Ternstroemiaceæ, the endemic genera are all Palmæ. They are: *Lodoicea sechellarum*, *Deckenia nobilis*,² *Nephrosperma vanhoutteana*,

¹ *Journal of the Linnean Society of London*, xiii. p. 557.

² In Bentham and Hooker's Genera Plantarum, iii. p. 898, *Deckenia* is reduced to the peculiarly Mascarene genus *Acanthophaenix*.