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Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants
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DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ON PAPUAN PLANTS,

BY

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FROM 1875 to 1877 the writer of the present notes issued five small parts of a publication on "Papuan Plants," for which issue the material became directly available to him and this largely through the kindness of the Missionaries in the south-eastern parts of New Guinea. Since then the work was discontinued, not only because the access of actually new additional material proving scanty, but also because Dr. E. Beccari, who was personally engaged in Papuan Explorations, had commenced in 1877 his learned and splendidly illustrated "Malesia," in which work the Papuan plants, gathered mainly by this distinguished Naturalist, were to appear along with numerous others, obtained by him in the Sunda-Islands. Although now six parts of the "Malesia" have appeared, the last in 1884, only a very limited number of natural orders became as yet investigated, which is not surprising, when the vastness of the material, accruing from Dr. Beccari's long itinerations, is considered. Under these circumstances it seemed not advisable, to postpone Australian researches concerning the Flora of New Guinea any longer, merely on account of similar

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hitherto defined on literary record. Of these the writings of Blume, Miquel and Scheffer gave about 380; Beccari's *Malesia* added to them about 140, largely new to science; the "Papuan Plants" up to date made additions to the extent of about 420, mostly known from India and Australia before (including 34 *evasculares*); De Candolle's *monographiæ* and some other recent works give about 60 more. Thus the species of plants, hitherto determined, are forming probably not more than one-third or even only one-fourth of those, constituting the flora of *vasculares* of the great Papuan Island.

From these and other data we are justified to conclude already, that the botanic (though far less the zoologic) features of the Papuan lowlands are mainly Malayan; but it remains yet to be ascertained, whether the highland-flora of New Guinea is chiefly repeating Himalaian or perhaps Australian types or largely presenting endemic forms. The known presence of *Araucaria* and *Epacridæ* in temperate altitudes vindicating already for the up-land flora of New Guinea to some extent an Australian character, while the vegetation of the north-east portion of the Australian continent is largely Malayan also.

These questions of the features of the Papuan flora—so important for phyto-geography—will with other scientific problems likely be solved this year to some degree through the two expeditions, which just set out on their glorious errands,—the one under the command of Capt. Everill, R.N., and provided for by the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria; the other under the leadership of Mr. H. O. Forbes; the former fitted out by the Geographic Society of Australia solely, the other by that society and several English scientific unions jointly.

Melbourne, June 1885.

LOGANIACEÆ.

BUDDLEYA ASIATICA.

Loureiro, fl. Cochinchin. 72.

Aroa-River; W. Armit.

The small-flowered variety.

CONVOLVULACEÆ.

IPOMŒA ERECTA.

R. Brown, prodr. 487.

Jervis-Island; Rev. J. Chalmers.

EVOLVULUS LINIFOLIUS.

Linné, sp. pl. sec. edit. 392.

Murray-Island; Rev. J. Chalmers.

LABIATÆ.

COLEUS SCUTELLAROIDES.

Bentham in Wall. pl. Asiatic. rarior. ii. 16.

Near Port Moresby; Rev. James Chalmers.

CYCADEÆ.

CYCAS SCRATCHLEYANA.

F. v. M. in Vict. Naturalist, Apr. 1885.

Mount Bedford, Jala-River, W. Armit.

ORCHIDEÆ.

DENDROBIUM CINNINATUM.

F. v. M. in proc. Roy. Soc. Queensl. i. part 3 (1884).

South-Eastern New Guinea. Described from a cultivated specimen, received through F. M. Bailey, Esq., F.L.S., from the bot. Garden of Brisbane.

DENDROBIUM CHALMERSII.

F. v. M. in Wing's S. Sc. Record, May 1882.

North-Eastern New Guinea; Rev. J. Chalmers.

DENDROBIUM ALBERTISII.

G. Reichenbach in D'Albertis's New Guinea, 399.

Fly-River; D'Albertis.

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June