

Land Planarian worms are also pretty common near Wellington. In their anatomical structure, these New Zealand species are more nearly allied to South American forms of the genus *Geoplana* than to the Australian Land Planarians. These latter belong to a special genus, *Cucnoplana*, which has affinities with the genus *Rhynchodemus* of India and the Cape of Good Hope.\*

Mr. W. T. Locke Travers, F.L.S., to whom I am indebted for much kindness and scientific information during my stay at Wellington, brought me specimens of *Peripatus N. zealandic*, and also of Land Planarians, together with the egg capsules of the latter, which were hitherto unknown.

They are spherical in form, of about the size of sweet-pea seeds and of a dark brown colour. The capsules have a tough chitinous wall, and contain four or five young Planarians each. The production of these capsules by the Land Planarians I regard as further evidence in favour of the affinity of these worms to the leeches, on which I have dwelt elsewhere.†

**Off the Kermadec Islands, September 14th, 1874.**—We were in the morning in sight of Raoul or Sunday Island, and Macaulay Island, of the Kermadec group. No landing was effected on any of the islands. This small group of islands forms with New Zealand, McQuarrie Island, and the Tonga group, a direct line of volcanic action, stretching about N.E., and thus at right angles nearly to the north-west lines, which are followed by most of the remaining Pacific groups, such as the Fijis, for example. The Kermadec Islands are all very small. The flora of Raoul Island was described by Sir J. D. Hooker‡ from collections made by Mr. MacGillivray, of H.M.S. "Herald." Forty-two vascular plants are known from the islands, of which five are endemic species. Half of the number consist of New Zealand ferns. The large proportion of ferns in the flora is most remarkable, and also their New Zealand character. There are no currents leading from New Zealand towards the Kermadecs. The group lies in the fork

\* Captain F. W. Hutton informs me that, as far as he knows, the genus *Bipalium* does not exist in New Zealand. His assertion that it did exist there in his well-known and admirable paper, "On the Geographical Relations of the New Zealand Fauna," Trans. New Zealand Inst., Vol. V., 1872, p. 227, was due to imperfect determination of the genus in the case of the species of *Geoplana* of the locality.

† H. N. Moseley, "On the Anatomy and Histology of the Land Planarians of Ceylon." Phil. Trans. 1875, p. 148. Also "Notes on the Structure of Several Forms of Land Planarians." Quart. Journal, Micro. Sci., Vol. XVII., p. 275.

‡ Sir J. D. Hooker, "Botany of Raoul Island." Jour. Linn. Soc., Bot., Vol. I., 1857, p. 125.