

separated from the shore of the island by a band of water, which had a slightly yellowish tinge, caused by its shallowness and the colour of the coral-built bottom.

The vegetation of Matuku is very different from that of Tongatabu, though no doubt much like that of Eua. Ferns are numerous instead of scanty, and amongst them a beautiful climbing species (*Lygodium reticulatum*) is abundant. I saw but few Casuarinas. In the woods the trees are almost hidden by a network of convolvulus.

The most conspicuous trees, except the Screw-pines and Cocoa-nut palms, at the time of our visit were those of a species of *Erythrina*,* which was in full scarlet blossom. On the honey of the flowers of this tree a most beautiful Lory (*Domitella solitaria*) was feeding, and with it some little Honey-birds (*Myzomela jugularis*). The Lory is one of the most beautiful little parrots existing, showing a splendid contrast of the richest colours, jet black, red, and green. It is peculiar to the Fiji Islands. It flies in flocks, and hence the term "*solitaria*" might lead to an erroneous impression.

A swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*) was flying about in considerable numbers, at the summit of the peak.

Hopping about on the mud, beneath the mangroves on the shore, was the extraordinary fish, *Periophthalmus*, at which I had often been astonished in Ceylon. This little fish skips along on the surface of the water, by a series of jumps, of the distance of as much as a foot, with great rapidity, and prefers escaping in this way to swimming beneath the surface. I have chased one in Trincomali Harbour, which skipped thus before me until it reached a rock, where it sat on a ledge out of the water in the sun, and waited till I came up, when it skipped along to another rock.

The fish are very nimble on land, and difficult to catch. They use their very muscular pectoral fins to spring with, and when resting on shore the fore part of their body is raised and supported on these. There seems to be no figure of this very remarkable fish which shows it at all in the attitude which it assumes when alive. The accompanying woodcut has been drawn from a specimen kindly lent to me by Dr. Günther, and I have put the fish as nearly in the natural position which it assumes when on land, as I can from memory.

The eyes of the fish, which is one of the Gobies, are remarkably prominent, projecting directly upwards from the skull. The fish in mangrove swamps often sits on the lower branches

* *Erythrina indica*. The "Araba" flowers in August, the time to plant yams; hence the flowering of this tree is the basis of the Fijian Calendar. Seemann, "Flora Vitiensis."