

A species of Fig, a wide-spreading tree with large leaves, seemed to me remarkable, because the fruit was borne only on the pendent aerial roots. A tree of another species of fig amused me, because its pendent roots had wound spirally around the parent stem of the tree itself, and had nearly choked it. It seemed just that a fig, so accustomed to choking other trees, should thus once in a while choke itself; but no doubt the tree suffered little, the roots taking fully the place of the strangled trunk.

The Rattans are a serious obstacle in excursions in the forests. The tendrils of these trailing and climbing palms are beset with rows of recurved hooks, which as they are drawn across one's flesh, in a dash made to get a shot at a bird, cut into it as readily as knives, but with a more unpleasant wound.

An immense tree, with a tall stem free from branches, until at a great height it spread out into a wide and evenly shaped crown, was full of the nests of the Metallic Starling (*Calornis metallica*), a very beautiful small starling with dark plumage, which displays a brilliant purple metallic glance all over its surface. There must have been three or four hundred nests in the tree; every available branch was full of them. The birds were busy flying to and fro, and were quite safe, for the tree was so high that they were out of shot of my gun at least, which was not a choke bore.

On one of my excursions in the forest I met with a flock of brilliant plumaged Parrots. They were apparently feeding in company with a flock of White Cockatoos. I managed to stalk one of the parrots, and shot it. The cockatoos set up the most angry harsh screaming, and evidently made common cause with the parrots. They sat and screamed at me on a tree close by, as angrily as if one of their own flock had been shot, and flew over my head high up out of reach of the gun, looking down at the dead bird and still screaming.

Once, as I was making my way through thick undergrowth in a swampy place, my guide touched my arm and pointed, and said, "Cāsūārī." I was too late to see the big bird, but I saw the tracks of its feet in the mud; and now, for the first time, realized the fact that the Cassowary, a large Struthious bird, can inhabit a dense forest. I had always coupled Struthious birds in my mind with open downs or plains, or at all events with brushwood and occasional trees. Nor had I before understood that "Cassowary" was the Malay name of the bird.

I searched for Land Planarians without success. There can, however, be no doubt that they exist in Aru, since they occur in Australia, Ternate, and the Philippines.