

Some of the smaller trees growing on these ridges are covered with the curious epiphytes, *Myrmecodia armata* and *Hydnophytum formicaum*; these are plants belonging to the natural order *Cinchonaceæ*. Both plants are associated in their growth with certain species of ants; as soon as the young plants develop a stem, the ants gnaw at its base, and the irritation produced causes the stem to swell; the ants continuing to irritate and excavate the swelling, it assumes a globular form, and may become larger than a man's head.

The globular mass contains within a labyrinth of chambers and passages, which are occupied by the ants as their nest. The walls of these chambers, and the whole mass of the inflated stem, retain their vitality and thrive, continuing to increase in size with growth. From the surface of the rounded mass are given off small twigs, bearing the leaves and flowers.

It appears that this curious gall-like tumour on the stem has become a normal condition of the plants, which cannot thrive without the ants. In *Myrmecodia armata* the globular mass is covered with spine-like excrescences. The trees I referred to at Amboina, had these curious spine-covered masses perched in every fork, and with them also the smooth surfaced masses of a species of *Hydnophytum*.

Numerous dealers brought trays of the shells for which Amboina is famous to the ship, but the prices asked are so high, that it would probably pay to bring some of the shells back again from Europe to Amboina for sale to passing visitors. Cassowaries' eggs were also offered for sale, and large quantities of Deers'-horns (*Rusa moluccensis*).

The Deer are very abundant in Amboina. I accompanied a party which went in pursuit of them. We had a letter to a native head-man in one of the villages on the shores of the inlet in which the harbour lies. The head-man treated us hospitably, and collected about a dozen beaters. The Deer were lying down in concealment on a plain of some extent close to the shore, which was covered with tall grass in some places up to our middles, and skirted by bushes.

We saw a Stag and two Hinds make off out of range, as we made our way along the edge of the tall grass. The men beat the bushes at the edges of the grass, and at last drove a Hind out of one clump to the guns, and it was shot. The numerous tracks in the grass showed that plenty of deer must come there to feed.

Ternate Island, October 14th to 17th, 1874.—The island of Ternate is an active volcanic cone rising direct out of the sea to a height, according to "Challenger" observations, of 5,600 feet. My small aneroid indicated the height as somewhat less,