

worthy plants in the above list, because they are as much indigenous as any of the plants, are *Elæodendron*, *Rhachicallis*, *Juniperus*, and the *Spiranthes*, to which might be added, perhaps, the *Atriplex* and the *Peperomia*. *Rhachicallis* is a very singular little shrub, inhabiting rocky sea-shores from Cuba and Jamaica to the Bahamas; and it is one of the characteristic plants of the Bermudan flora. The most remarkable plant, however, is the orchid, *Spiranthes*. Orchids are exceedingly rare in remote islands and islets, and much rarer, generally speaking, in islands nearer continents than on the continents themselves; and this is the only one with which we have to deal in the vegetation of the islands of the Atlantic and South Indian Oceans. In the Azores there are only three species, two of which are endemic.

From the figures given in the preceding table it will be seen that there is an equal number (twenty-three) of North American plants which are apparently indigenous in the Bermudas, but do not extend to the West Indies. These are:—

Kosteletzkya virginica, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, *Rhus toxicodendron*, *Opuntia pescorvi*? *Galium uniflorum*, *Eupatorium fœniculaceum*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Solidago stricta*, *Baccharis glomeruliflora*, *Pluchea camphorata*, *Ipomœa sagittata*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Urtica chamædryoides*, *Parietaria pennsylvanica*, *Juncus marginatus*, *Zostera marina*? *Heleocharis melanocarpa*, *Rhynchospora stipitata*,¹ *Paspalum setaceum*, *Woodwardia virginica*, *Nephrodium thelypteris*, and *Osmunda regalis*.

This North American element in the flora may be partly due to the agency of man; but the majority of the species inhabit salt marshes and the sea-shore of the mainland, and similar situations in the islands. *Rhus toxicodendron* is one of the plants mentioned by the earliest visitors as inhabiting the islands; and the *Baccharis*, *Pluchea*, *Juncus*, *Heleocharis*, *Rhynchospora*, and the ferns are all plants unlikely to have been introduced by man, either accidentally or purposely. Besides, the localities in which they occur point to their being truly indigenous.

WIDELY DISPERSED SPECIES.

Of the 144 species comprising the indigenous flora, some forty-six are widely dispersed, by which is meant that, independently of their distribution in the New World, they extend to some part of the Old. Many of them are generally diffused in warm regions, especially the purely maritime plants. There can be no doubt that many of the latter class owe their present wide range to the action of the sea itself.

ENDEMIC PLANTS.

As compared with other islands in similar and different latitudes and similarly situated in relation to the nearest continents, the flora of the Bermudas is singularly poor in

¹ A plant only recently discovered in Florida, and described in the Supplement to Chapman's Flora of the Southern United States.