

and fruit without success. One of the trees was about twenty feet high and nine inches in diameter of trunk. Some thorny acacia bushes are abundant on the shore, and *Abrus precatorius* twines round everything on the main island; but I did not see it on the outliers. *Jatropha urens* is abundant everywhere, and a horrible pest.

“*Ipomæa pes-capræ*, the same as at Bermuda and the Cape Verdes, is in abundance on the sand-hills, and is covered with *Cuscuta americana*, which is extremely abundant, and attacks most of the low herbs.

“I saw only one grass (*Oplismenus colonus*) on the main island, but that was abundant. *Cereus insularis* covers the cliffs; but I did not see anything answering to the *Cactus quadrangularis* mentioned by Webster. The Cape gooseberry and castor-oil plant grow wild on all the islands. Some few of the plants which I collected on the main island were from the neighbourhood of the convict settlement, and are probably introduced species.

“The upper part of St Michael’s Mount is covered with a thick growth of bushes, trees, and creepers. The island is comparatively inaccessible, and affords no space for cultivation; hence all the plants upon it have probably reached it through natural agencies. I was several hours on this island, and believe that I made a tolerably complete collection of its flora. At the base of the rock grows an *Ipomæa* with a large white flower. I did not see this species on the main island, but only the blue-flowered one, *Ipomæa pes-capræ*, which does not grow on St Michael’s Mount or any of the other outliers on which we landed, although this white-flowered species is abundant on all of them. A fig, *Ficus noronhæ*, grows all over the upper part of St Michael’s, and in favourable spots forms a considerable tree. I saw one about eighteen inches in diameter of trunk and thirty feet in height. The tree is wide and spreading, and throws down aerial roots like *Ficus indica*. Webster mentions the banyan as growing at Fernando-Noronha: this is evidently the tree referred to. It grows also on Rat Island near the sea-level, but does not there form a tree, being merely a low bush. Another tree, *Capparis cynophallophora*, with dark-green leaves of an oval lanceolate form, grows abundantly on the summit of St Michael’s Mount. It has a stem about eight or nine inches in diameter, and an almost creeping habit. On Rat Island there is a thick growth of grass with clinging seeds mingled with Leguminous and Euphorbiaceous herbs and Cucurbitaceous creepers; but there is no tree, there not being sufficient shelter from the wind. The fig does not reach more than five or six feet in height.

“On the whole, I should expect, from what I saw during my few hours on the islands, that the flora of Fernando-Noronha is not very rich in species, the same plants recurring everywhere. I collected only about fifty species of flowering plants in all.

“I found neither fern nor moss, either on the mainland or on St Michael’s Mount, although there are moist and shady spots about the latter rock where ferns might grow. Lichens were very scarce. I noticed only two incrusting species, and these were not abundant.

“There is a small inland lake marked on the chart at the western extremity of the main island. Ferns, sedges, &c., may possibly grow there; but perhaps the occasional drought is too much for them.

“The top of the Peak, which is quite inaccessible, appears to be without vegetation. Marine algæ, excepting incrusting calcareous forms, are not at all abundant about tide-mark; but about twenty-four species were obtained by Professor Thomson whilst dredging in shallow water, from seven to twenty fathoms. A green *Ulva* grows on some low rocks on the sandy northern beach.

“Sugar-cane, maize, cassava, a black bean, and sweet potatoes are cultivated in Fernando-