

“Native Ebony.”

This tree appears to be quite extinct in the island, and probably no longer exists under cultivation. In Burchell's time it grew in the localities named above, and, according to his notes in Kew library, in a few others.

“This plant I believe to be now extinct. It formerly grew on the outer portions of the island near the coast, at altitudes of 1000 to 2000 feet, where the weatherbeaten stems are still found deeply embedded in the surface soil. The last plant I saw was a small one growing in the garden at Oakbank about twenty-five years ago, but it is not there now, and I have in vain searched the whole island over for another. The leaves were dark-green, and the flowers white; the wood is very hard, heavy, black in colour, and extremely brittle. It is still collected and turned into ornaments, which are much prized on account of its rarity. That this tree once formed a considerable portion of the vegetation, clothing the island on those parts that are now quite barren, is strongly evidenced by the many references to it in the local records.”—*Melliss*.

Roxburgh mentions that he saw the ebony in two gardens only, where it had in many years grown to the height of only two or three feet, with many longer branches spreading flat on the ground, well decorated with abundance of foliage and large handsome flowers.

**Melhania erythroxyton, Ait.**

*Melhania erythroxyton*, Ait., Hort. Kew., ed. 2, iv. p. 146; Melliss, St Hel., p. 245, t. 28.

*Pentapetes erythroxyton*, Forst. in Comment. Soc. Gætt., ix., reprint, p. 51; Ait., Hort. Kew, ed. 1, ii. p. 438.

*Dombeya erythroxyton*, Willd., Sp. Pl., iii. p. 725; Roxb. in Beatson's St Helena Tracts, p. 306.

*Alcea arborea populi*, &c., Pluk., Almag. Mant., p. 6, et Amalth., t. 333, fig. 1.

*Trochetia erythroxyton*, Benth. et. Hook. f., Gen. Plant., i. p. 222.

ST HELENA.—Endemic. Longwood—*Burchell*; *Shuter*; without locality—*Bennett*; *Haughton*; *Lefroy*; Central Range—*Morris*, in 1883.

“Redwood.”

This beautiful tree must soon share the fate of its congener. Melliss says—“One or two specimens still remain growing amongst the cabbage-trees, ferns, and other native plants in the glens near Diana's Peak and High Peak at 2500 feet. It is, however, very quickly disappearing, and ere long will probably become altogether extinct. Some cultivated specimens exist in gardens as low down as 1850 feet; but altogether not more than seventeen or eighteen plants are now to be found in the island; namely, two at Arnos Vale, one at Oakbank, three or four at Bowers's and Sandy Bay, two at Sam. Alexander's, one at Southen's, six or eight young trees at the Hermitage, one at Diana's Peak, and one at High Peak.” From Burchell's manuscript we learn that it must have been tolerably plentiful in 1810; and Roxburgh states that in 1814 it still furnished the islanders with a hard, close-grained, mahogany-coloured, durable wood.