

Very rare indeed according to Melliss, growing only at High Peak, and near the Old Picquet House, above West Lodge. In the British Museum are specimens collected by Forster and Robertson, 1773.

By an oversight the name *gummiferus* was applied to this plant in Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*. The error seems to have originated with Burchell, who incorrectly, in his manuscript tabulation of the synonymy of the St Helena *Compositæ*, reproduced at p. 70, cites De Candolle as reducing *Solidago cuneifolia*, Roxb., to *Solidago gummifera*, Roxb., whereas he doubtfully referred it to the genus *Lachanodes*.

Commidendron robustum, DC.

Commidendron robustum, DC., Prodr., v. p. 344; Melliss, St Hel., p. 284, t. 39.

Commidendron gummiferum, DC., loc. cit.

Aster roxburghii, Hook. f. in Hook. Ic. Pl., xi. p. 45.

Conyza robusta et *Conyza gummifera*, Roxb. in Beatson's St Helena Tracts, p. 304.

ST HELENA.—Endemic. Longwood—*Burchell*, 152; *Lady Dalhousie*; without locality—*Walker*; *Wollaston*; *Melliss*.

“Gumwood.”

Melliss estimated the total number of gumwood trees in the island, in 1868, at about 1300 or 1400, and gave the approximate number in each locality where they grew. The principal are:—Longwood, Deadwood, and Lowe's Gardens, about 700 or 800; Man and Horse, about 50; Thompson's Wood, about 50; valley next to Shipway's, about 60; valley next to Rock Rose Hill, about 100; valley between Rock Mount and Peak Dale, about 100; and valley between Peak Dale and Lufkins, about 100. Formerly this was the most abundant tree in the island, and covered large areas. Roxburgh states that it grew on the more elevated parts of the interior of the island; but Melliss says it does not occur at a greater elevation than 1900 feet. We append his remarks on the distribution of this tree:—“The gumwood does not grow on the central and most elevated land where the native cabbage-trees and inhabitants of the cooler regions are found. Scarcely a tree exists at a greater altitude than 1900 feet above the sea; and there is still sufficient evidence to show that its habitat was on the now semi-barren slopes which stretch away to the sea-coast, and encircle the middle zone of the island—such as Longwood, Deadwood, Man and Horse, New Ground, and similar localities. Longwood and Deadwood, as their names imply, were originally covered with trees; nor is this the only evidence of their having been abundantly wooded, for natives still living on the island, as well as the records, tell of thick woods once covering those now grassy plains. Knowing this to be the case, there is no reason to doubt that other parts of the island, which now appear barren and so unlikely to support vegetation, were once also, down to the sea-cliffs, clothed with green woods, as stated by early visitors to the island.”