

We have expressed an opinion in another part of this work that the seeds of *Ipomœa biloba*, or *pes-capræ* as it is more commonly called, are carried by the waves of the sea from one place to another, and often germinate when cast ashore; and we find this opinion supported by a memorandum in Burchell's manuscript. It runs thus: "*Statio: In littore, ventum versus, Sandy Bay, ubi sæpe inveniuntur semina Acaciæ scandentis et Dolichos. Semina super undas longe feruntur, ab aqua marina nullum detrimenti, et variis in littoribus hospitaliter recipientia: planta hæcce vere nautica.*"

The "*Acacia scandens*" mentioned by Burchell is more familiarly known under its modern appellation, *Entada scandens*. It is widely dispersed in tropical countries, and its seeds are surpassed by few in size. Among other places, they are frequently thrown up on the Azores, where, however, the conditions are not favourable to their germination, though they retain their vitality, as has been proved by plants having been reared in the hothouses at Kew from seeds picked up on the shores of the Azores. From the direction of the prevailing oceanic currents, it is evident that these seeds are carried from the West Indies to the Azores, a distance of about 3000 miles.

Burchell does not say whether the seeds of *Entada scandens* ever begin to germinate on the coast of St Helena; it is obvious, however, that this plant could not establish itself there. Melliss states that the seeds are often cast ashore on the windward side of the island, and that they have been known to germinate and grow into plants of considerable size; yet he doubted the existence of a single plant in the island at the time he wrote. He also mentions that the hard slate-coloured seeds of *Guilandina bonduc* are frequently washed ashore on the beach at Sandy Bay, the same locality given by Burchell, though no instance of their having germinated had come under his observation.

#### NYCTAGINEÆ.

##### *Boerhaavia verticillata*, Poir.

*Boerhaavia verticillata*, Poir. in Lam. Encycl., v. p. 56; DC., Prodr., xiii. 2, p. 454; Melliss, St Hel., p. 312.

*Boerhaavia repanda*, Roxb. in Beatson's St Helena Tracts, p. 302, non Willd.

*Boerhaavia helenæ*, Rœm. et Schult., Syst. Veg., i. Mant., p. 73.

ST HELENA.—Indigenous? Ladder Hill, and various other localities—*Burchell*, 1; Rupert's Hill, &c.—*Melliss*.

"Hogweed."

This plant is widely diffused in Tropical Africa, and Melliss thinks it is probably indigenous in St Helena; but it is more likely to be an introduced plant, because all the known indigenous plants have a peculiar facies. It would seem, however, to have been commoner in Roxburgh's time than it is now, for he says "common amongst the rocks in James's Valley, &c."