

mentioned, though it may possibly not be exhibited by the living plant. The pappus falls from the achenes while they are still in or attached to the receptacle, and the bracts of the involucre are apparently hygroscopic, and when dry, bend over the achenes and prevent them from being dispersed. Of course, this and many other points connected with reproduction can only be verified on the spot.

The endemic arboreal genus *Cuminia* of the Labiatae has dimorphic, functionally unisexual flowers, intermixed in the same inflorescence, the males largely predominating. It is very closely allied to *Bystropogon*, a genus of upwards of a dozen mostly shrubby species, and some of considerable size, inhabiting the Canary Islands and Western South America. Describing the size of the trunks of several of the Juan Fernandez trees, including the species of *Cuminia*, Philippi states¹ that they are often one to three feet in diameter; but, judging from what Bertero and others say of the size of the species of *Cuminia*, a foot would be the outside diameter of the trunk of any of them. Arboreal Labiatae are very rare; probably the largest are some South American species of *Hyptis*. A Brazilian species, *Hyptis membranacea*, is stated by Gardner to be a tree thirty to forty feet high; another species, *Hyptis arborea*, a native of British Guiana, New Granada, and Ecuador, grows from twenty to thirty feet high. There are also several large shrubby or subarboreal Labiatae in India, as *Colebrookia*, *Elsholtzia*, and *Meriandra*.

The shrubby Boraginaceous plant, which we have removed from *Cynoglossum* and raised to the rank of a distinct genus, under the name *Selkirkia*, is allied to the Chatham Island monotypic *Myosotidium* in structure, but very different in habit.

Of all the endemic plants, however, the genus *Lactoris* is the most distinct, being so unique in its structure that its place in the natural system is not easily determined. Philippi referred it to the Magnoliaceae; but Bentham and Hooker have no doubt correctly placed it in the tribe Saurureae of the Piperaceae, though it differs from all the other genera in the flowers having a distinct perianth, and in being solitary or two or three together, instead of being naked and closely packed in racemes or spikes. Associated with these anomalous structural characters, it has the knotted branches and the aromatic taste and smell of a *Piper*.

The structure of the flowers and fruit of the endemic palm *Juania australis* is still very imperfectly known; male flowers have not been described, nor has the fruit. It is to be hoped that no opportunity of obtaining complete specimens will be lost.

Among other endemic plants, *Eryngium bupleuroides* has analogues in the South European *Bupleurum fruticosum*, and in the African genera *Heteromorpha* and *Stegano-tenia*. There are shrubby species of *Plantago* in South America, but *Plantago princeps* of the Sandwich Islands comes nearest *Plantago fernandezia*.

Another feature in the flora of Juan Fernandez is the almost total absence of Leguminosae; this it shares in common with New Zealand as well as many of the oceanic islands

¹ *Botanische Zeitung*, 1856, p. 634.