

“Chonta” is the native name of this Palm, which is peculiar to Juan Fernandez. According to Germain, as recorded by Philippi (l.c.), it is dioecious, and the trunk attains a height of eighty to ninety feet. It is stated in Sutcliffe’s *Crusoniana*, p. 28, that the Cabbage Palm or Chonta was abundant during Alexander Selkirk’s stay on the island (1704–1709); but in Walter’s account of Commodore Anson’s visit, as quoted by Sutcliffe, p. 67, the number of trees in 1741 was small, and most of them were growing on precipices and in dangerous situations. Moseley states¹ that from a certain point in the island one could count the number of trees remaining.

Philippi (Bot. Zeit., 1856, p. 634) describes the Chonta as a very slender and graceful Palm; the trunk, though rarely exceeding eight inches in diameter, rises high above the tallest forest trees, where its head of waving feathery leaves is very effective. The dark green trunk is quite smooth and shining, and the leaf-scars are about eight inches asunder. The scarlet fruit is about the size of a bullet, and hangs in elegant festoons, adding greatly to the beauty of the tree.

JUNCEÆ.

Juncus microcephalus, H. B. K.

Juncus microcephalus, H. B. K., Nov. Gen. et Sp., i. p. 237; Gay, Fl. Chil., vi. p. 141; Buchenau in Abhandl. naturw. Vereins, Bremen, vi. p. 406.

JUAN FERNANDEZ.—In humid pastures—*Bertero*; *Scouler*; *Douglas*; *Reed*; *Moseley*.

A common and variable American species, ranging from Mexico to Uruguay and Chili.

Juncus acutus, Linn.

Juncus acutus, Linn., Sp. Pl., ed. 1, p. 325; Gay, Fl. Chil., vi. p. 140; Buchenau in Abhandl. naturw. Vereins, Bremen, iv. p. 421, et vi. p. 389.

Juncus macrocarpus, Nees in Linnæa, xx. p. 243.

JUAN FERNANDEZ. *Scouler*.

A maritime species inhabiting the coast of western and southern Europe, from the south of England; North and South Africa, and both sides of South America.

Juncus dombeyanus, J. Gay.

Juncus dombeyanus, J. Gay in Laharpe Monogr. Junc., p. 132; C. Gay, Fl. Chil., vi. p. 142; Buchenau in Abhandl. naturw. Vereins, Bremen, vi. p. 408; Philippi in Bot. Zeit., 1856, p. 630.

JUAN FERNANDEZ. *Germain*.

This is the only *Juncus* in Philippi’s list; and it is also recorded from Juan Fernandez by Buchenau, but there are no authentically named specimens of this species at Kew. It is, however, evidently so near *Juncus microcephalus* as to be hardly separable as a species. It is also recorded from the southern provinces of Chili.

¹ Notes by a Naturalist on the Challenger, p. 541.