

The relatively large proportion of Leguminosæ, amounting to over 13 per cent. of the whole, may be accounted for partly by the fact that several of the species of this Order are commonly cultivated, and have thereby become so widely diffused in a wild state, and partly by the fact that the seeds of many members of this Order will bear long immersion in sea water without losing their vitality, and often germinate when cast ashore after having been conveyed long distances by oceanic currents.

With regard to the proportions of the various natural Orders, it is very probable that an analysis of the complete flora of these islands would give very different results, for we know that the present collections are almost entirely composed of the littoral element. Nevertheless, the analysis given by Decaisne¹ of the flora of Timor offers very similar proportions. The total number of species enumerated by Decaisne is 550, whereof 100 are monocotyledons and ferns, leaving 450 dicotyledons, representing a large number of genera and natural Orders; the Orders (including ferns) most numerous represented being:—

Leguminosæ 63	Cyperaceæ 20	Buettneriaceæ ² 13
Gramineæ 33	Malvaceæ 18	Myrtaceæ 12
Euphorbiaceæ 28	Acanthaceæ 17	Verbenaceæ 12
Urticaceæ 26	Convolvulaceæ 15	Solanaceæ 11
Compositæ 24	Rubiaceæ 14	Labiata 11
Filices 22		

It will be seen that the natural Orders are nearly the same in the two instances. Ferns, if included, would occupy a similar position in our flora. Taking the other Orders not among ours, represented by ten or more species, the numbers are:—Myrtaceæ, 7; Buettneriaceæ, 0; Solanaceæ, 8; and Cyperaceæ, 2; in the present collection from the South-eastern Moluccas. Of these Orders the Cyperaceæ are perhaps the likeliest to receive a considerable accession to the present number in future collections. It should be mentioned that Decaisne retains the Artocarpeæ as a distinct Order from the Urticaceæ, and of the former he describes thirteen species, eleven of *Ficus* and two of *Artocarpus*.

Examining the distribution of the plants in the foregoing table, we find that out of the 367, 274, or about 74·7 per cent., extend to Continental Asia; 193, or about 52·6 per cent., to Australia; 165, or nearly 45 per cent., to Africa; 137, or 37 per cent., to Polynesia; and 107, or 29 per cent., to America. Taking the Malayan Archipelago as one geographical area or region, 35 out of the 367 are restricted to it; in other words, 332 out of 367 extend to one or more of the other geographical areas. The number extending to three areas is 227; while 165 are spread over four areas, and 109 over five areas. Finally, 48 of the species, or 13 per cent., occur in all six areas. These are:—

Portulaca oleracea, *Sida rhombifolia*, *Urena lobata*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Thespesia*

¹ Herbarii Timorensis Descriptio, p. 8.

² A tribe of Sterculiaceæ, not represented in our collections.