

indigenous in America only, though it is now very widely spread in the Old World. It is an annual, and is commonly cultivated for ornament.

**Gomphrena canescens**, R. Br. var. ?

*Gomphrena canescens*, R. Br. var. ? Benth., Fl. Austr., v. p. 253.

TIMOR LAUT.—Typical *Gomphrena canescens* has only been found in the northernmost part of Australia.

CHENOPODIACEÆ.

**Salsola kali**, Linn. var.

*Salsola kali*, Linn. var. ; Benth., Fl. Austr., v. p. 207.

*Salsola australis*, R. Br., Prodr. Fl. N. Holl., p. 411 ; Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat., i. 1, p. 102.

*Salsola tragus*, Dcne., Herb. Timor. Descr., p. 42, excl. syn.

MARU.—This seaside and salt-marsh herb is very widely diffused in temperate and subtropical regions, both in America and in the Old World.

**Aristolochia indica**, Linn. var. ?

*Aristolochia indica*, Linn. var. ? Benth., Fl. Austr., vi. p. 209 ; Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat., i. 1, p. 1066.

TIMOR LAUT.—This species ranges from Asia to North Australia, if the form found there really belongs to *Aristolochia indica*, of which Bentham was not quite certain. The distribution of the large genus *Aristolochia* is somewhat peculiar. It is almost universal in temperate and tropical regions, yet very rare, or quite absent from some large areas. Thus no species is indigenous in Britain ; and in the southern hemisphere the genus is not represented in extratropical South Africa nor in New Zealand, and only one species grows in Chili. Five species are found in Eastern Australia, but none in Western ; and Duchartre, who monographed the genus for De Candolle's Prodrusus, was not aware of the existence of the genus in Polynesia. Neither Seemann nor any other writer on the Flora of Polynesia includes the genus. But in 1878 Mr Horne, of the Mauritius Botanic Garden, collected fruit-bearing specimens of an *Aristolochia* in the Fiji group ; and more recently the Rev. Mr Powell sent a capsule and a flower of a species gathered in Samoa. There is no record of the exact localities of these Polynesian species, nor of their relative frequency ; but we may assume that they are rare or very local, otherwise earlier collectors would have met with them.

PIPERACEÆ.

**Piper** spp.

LARAT ; TIMOR LAUT ; BABAR.—Imperfect specimens of three or four species of *Piper* are in the collections from the above islands. They include what may be *Piper officinarum*, C. DC. (*Chavica officinarum*, Miq.), which is common throughout the Archipelago, though it does not extend to Australia. The genus is represented in all tropical countries.