

they grow in the islands; for in one canoe I saw a rattan stem in use as a cable. A young palm with prickly leaf-stalks, a dried specimen of which is sent, may prove to be of a further species.¹ The cocoa-nut palm is, as has been before mentioned, abundant on the inhabited islands, where young trees are planted by the inhabitants with great care around their villages, each young tree being protected from the numerous pigs or other injury by means of a neat wicker-work cylindrical fence. On the uninhabited islands cocoa-nut palms are occasionally, but not abundantly, present. The natives, however, plant the palms on uninhabited islands; for I found four or five young trees planted on Observatory Island, each carefully girt at its base with a circle of stones. Cocoa-nut palms grow also on the mainland, on the tops of the hill-ridges, mostly in clumps, as if one or a few trees originally established had seeded others around. There can be no doubt that these plants were planted by natives; and most probably the spot occupied by each clump was inhabited at some time. This part of the main island may formerly have been more thickly inhabited than it at present appears to be. I saw no dwarf varieties of the cocoa-nut; the trees are all of the common tall kind. The areca palm is abundant almost everywhere on the main island.

“The sago palm grows, as usual, socially, in swamps; as usual, also, there is a very large preponderance of immature examples which have not yet begun to form a stem. Indeed, it was only in one swamp that any stemmed specimens were met with at all. No doubt the natives lose no time in felling all the mature trees in spots easily accessible from the coast, and very often cut them before they are mature, for fear of their falling into other hands. A Cycad² is abundant, and grows occasionally to a height of thirty feet, looking like a palm.

“The three species of *Pandanus* met with are identical with the three found at the Aru Islands. The two larger ones were common and striking features in the aspect of the coast vegetation. I saw no bamboos in the islands, and they are not in general use amongst the natives; but I saw a few chunam boxes made of bamboo joints.

“Amongst the large forest trees an enormous *Ficus*, with the usual wonderful compound stem, was the most striking. A tree also with the vertical plank-like roots, a familiar phenomenon in Philippine forests, was common; but unfortunately, as usual, no specimens from the high trees could be obtained. A few flowers were picked up upon the ground; but it was found impossible to make out to which tree, amongst a number of trunks, a particular blossom spread over the ground belonged. Several araliaceous trees and shrubs were characteristic features of the vegetation. A bright-coloured *Coleus* was amongst the few terrestrial herbs. A *Dracæna*, often beautifully reddened, was common; but no brilliant crotons were seen. A bright-flowered malvaceous tree (*Thespesia populnea*) was amongst the littoral trees. Possibly this yields fibres for ropes, &c., to the natives.

“Fungi were abundant on the dead wood in the swamps and woods; and a considerable number of forms were collected, some of which, I think, are of special interest.³

“Seaweeds were cast up on the shores at every tide in great abundance, and yielded a greater variety of species than had before been met with by me on tropical coral coasts.”

From Mr Moseley's sketch, and the following list of the plants collected, we can form some idea of how much remains to be done in the investigation of the flora of the Admiralty Islands. The table below is limited to the species of flowering plants which could be named with certainty.

¹ This has not been found.

² *Cycas circinalis*, Linn.

³ A considerable proportion of the species collected were previously unknown.