Naturalised in Africa and Asia.

Hibiscus tiliaceus, Linn.	*Rhizophora mangle*, Linn.[1]
Acacia farnesiana, Willd.	*Batatas pentaphylla*, Choisy.

Origin Asiatic or African.

Naturalised in America.

Guilandina bonduc, Linn.	*Batatas paniculata*, Choisy.
Abrus precatorius, Linn.	*Ipomœa pes-caprœ*, Sweet.
Scævola lobelia, Linn.	

Transported from the Old World into the New, or the reverse; but of doubtful origin.

Telanthera frutescens, Linn.	*Sporobolus virginicus*, Kunth.
Stenotaphrum americanum, Schranck.	

Common to Asia, Africa, and America, without any clue to its origin.

Canavalia obtusifolia, DC.

The majority of the plants in the preceding list come under consideration in this work, and many of them are now known to have a much wider range than De Candolle attributed to them, particulars of which may be found by consulting the indexes to the various parts. Others, such as *Remirea maritima* and *Abrus precatorius*, although not coming within the scope of this work, are very widely dispersed in maritime districts.

The lack, however, of reliable and circumstantial evidence of the dispersion of plants by oceanic currents was commented upon by De Candolle in the admirable work named, and since the date of its publication (1855) the subject has received considerable attention, though, as the sequel shows, very much remains to be done before we shall be in a position to measure the probable extent of oceanic influence in the dispersion of land plants. Too many writers have generalised on the topic, without recording the data upon which their generalisations were founded. This was not due, doubtless, to a want of observation, but rather to inappreciation of the importance of recording, at the time of observation, facts trifling in themselves taken separately, but significant in the aggregate. Darwin very fully realised on his travels the necessity for actually noting small facts, and he thereby provided himself with materials for a lifelong study; and his example has been followed by many of the most successful of living naturalists. At p. 113 of the Report on the Botany of the South-eastern Moluccas, will be found a list of the plants collected by Darwin in the Keeling Islands, all of which he regarded as having been transported thither by the waves of the sea; and further evidence of the action of the sea in various parts of the world substantially confirms this view. The question arising again after his return home, he carried out and published[2] the results of a series of experiments to test how long various different seeds would bear immersion in sea-water without losing their

[1] The Asiatic species is distinct, see *ante*, p. 149.

[2] *Gardener's Chronicle*, 1855, and *Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, i. p. 130.