

however, as we have explained on p. 11, is hardly correct, for Andersson describes *Macræa laricifolia*, Hook. f. (*Lipocheæta*, A. Gr., Helianthoideæ), as "fere biorgyalis," and *Scalesia decurrens*, Anders. (Helianthoideæ), as "bi-triorgyalis"—dimensions exceeded by only a small proportion of the woody Compositæ in other oceanic islands. There are, according to Andersson, fifteen bushy Compositæ in the Galapagos, several of them reaching a height of eight to ten ells.

THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

The islands of the South Pacific, from the Fijis to the Marquesas, are exceedingly poor in Compositæ, and the only genus of special interest is *Fitchia* (Helianthoideæ), concerning which Bentham (*loc. cit.*, p. 558) says: "Lastly, there is the very remarkable *Fitchia*, found once only, I believe, in each of two different South Sea Islands,¹ and systematically connected with none but the Juan Fernandez *Dendroseris*.² Of the whole nineteen or twenty Compositæ [in the South Pacific Islands] this will probably prove to be the only one presenting a remnant of the ancient flora, the only exception to the more or less adventitious character of the South Pacific Compositæ."

Fitchia nutans, Hook. f., is a veritable tree, attaining a height of twenty-five feet.

¹ It is doubtful whether *Fitchia* was collected in Elizabeth Island by Cuming, upon whose specimen, thus labelled, the genus was founded (Hooker's *London Journal of Botany*, iv., 1845, p. 640, t. 23). The label, it is true, bears the name of this island; but we doubt its correctness, because in a manuscript list, of which there are two copies in the Kew library, there is no Compositæ among the numbers included under Elizabeth Island. The number 1424, attached to both the Benthamian and Hookerian specimens of *Fitchia nutans* in the Kew Herbarium, is in Cuming's list under Toubouia or Tubai Island, some twenty-two degrees west of Elizabeth Island. Whether it was actually collected in the last-named island or in Tahiti, where Cuming also collected on the same voyage, is a little uncertain, inasmuch as it has since, as far as we are aware, only been collected in Tahiti. Seemann (*Flora Vitiensis*, p. 109) questions the accuracy of Cuming's Elizabeth Island locality.

² The opposite leaves, palaceous receptacle, and biaristate achenes point to the Helianthoideæ rather than the Cichoriaceæ, in spite of all the florets being ligulate. By some mischance the generic character in Bentham and Hooker's *Genera Plantarum* is incorrect and contradictory in some particulars. Nadeaud (*Énumération des Plantes Indigènes de l'Île de Tahiti*, p. 49), seems to have had copious specimens under observation, and he expresses the same opinion, in which, he says, he was supported by the eminent botanist, Mr J. E. Planchon, to whom he showed his specimens. Nadeaud suggests the vicinity of *Bidens*, or *Wedelia* and *Wollastonia*, as the systematic position of *Fitchia*; but apart from its habit and ligulate flowers it is not materially different from the St Helena helianthoid *Petrobium arboreum*, R. Br. (*Bidens arborea*, Roxb.), and certainly nearer to it than the other genera named.

A second species (*Fitchia tahitiensis*) is described by Nadeaud. It is a shrub six to twelve feet high, growing in large clumps in various parts of the island, at elevations of between 800 and 1000 metres. And with regard to *Fitchia nutans*, he states that it is spread over nearly all the high summits of the island above an elevation of a thousand metres. This deserves repeating, because the prevalent idea is that this tree is extremely rare. Professor Dana, of the United States South Pacific Exploring Expedition, collected a single specimen of it, according to Gray (*Proc. Amer. Acad.*, v. p. 146), in the mountains of Tahiti, though its rarity is not adduced as the reason. Mr Moseley, however, on a label attached to a specimen in the Kew Herbarium, collected by him in the same island at an altitude of about 4000 feet, states that only one tree was seen, and that was about twenty-five feet high, with a stem nine inches in diameter.