

As already stated, the size of the flowers or flower-heads of the St Helena indigenous plants is on the whole rather above than below the average of those of their allies in other parts of the world. When we come to colour, however, the equality fails altogether, red being almost entirely wanting in the insular plants and blue unknown; for the slight tinge of blue in Melliss's figure of *Wahlenbergia angustifolia* seems to have been added to show the flowers on the white ground. Burchell describes (MSS. in Bibl. Kew) the flowers of all the St Helena species of *Wahlenbergia* as white. The species of *Melhania*, like those of many allied plants, change in colour after expansion. At first they are pure white, becoming pink or brown red according to Melliss, who, however, represents them with a clear, rosy red. Of no other oceanic island are we able to give such full particulars on this point; but it may be asserted that brilliantly coloured flowers are very rare in such situations.<sup>1</sup> Brigham (Proceedings of the Boston Natural History Society, xii. p. 6) says: "There are but few show-flowers, and still fewer fragrant ones, in the Hawaiian Flora. In the colouring white or greenish white is predominant, and yellow and pink follow at a respectful distance. There are very few blue flowers. *Strongylodon lucidum* is a rich crimson, and some other leguminous plants are violet, but the various and brilliant colouring of the Californian plants is wholly absent."

The flora of Juan Fernandez partakes, however, in some measure of the generally more brilliant colouring of the flowers of the south temperate zone. Indeed, Philippi states (*Botanische Zeitung*, 1856, p. 635) that the Juan Fernandez species of Chilean genera are handsomer, and especially larger-flowered, than their continental congeners.

Returning to the question of the existence of structural peculiarities in insular plants, we may safely say that no general ones exist, and the very distinct genera that occur are not disproportionate. Not a single order, or suborder, or tribe, is endemic in the smaller oceanic islands; and, as more fully set forth elsewhere, the greatest isolation of an order is that of the *Balanopseæ* in New Caledonia. The endemic genera of St Helena present no anomalies, nor indeed any specially striking differentiations in structure; for it is habit rather than structure that characterises the *Compositæ*. In the Tristan da Cunha group, and in St Paul and Amsterdam, the endemic element includes no higher rank than species. The other islands in the Southern Indian Ocean which have essentially the same flora (see Part II., p. 251) possess two very distinct, though by no means anomalous genera, namely, *Pringlea* and *Lyallia*. In the Juan Fernandez *Lactoris* we have an example of a truly anomalous genus, the position of which in the natural system is not evident.

The most highly differentiated endemic genera of the Sandwich Islands flora are: *Schiedea* and *Alsinidendron*, shrubby *Caryophyllææ* exhibiting important structural

<sup>1</sup> In relation to the fertilisation of plants by insects, the absence of native butterflies in St Helena is noteworthy. On this point Melliss (*St Helena*, p. 180) says: "The varied hues of the St Helena landscape need little to add to their brilliancy [brilliant with exotic plants], or the almost entire absence of butterflies would be more striking. There are but four species in the island, and they have all been imported. With moths it is different: they abound."