

judging from what has been published by Continental botanists. He also wrote¹ a sketch of the flora, the substance of which is reproduced below.

After arranging and sending off his plants to Europe, Bertero embraced the opportunity offered by a vessel sailing for Tahiti, to go to investigate the vegetation of that island, and, after making valuable collections, he took a passage to return to Valparaiso in a new Tahitian schooner, which was never heard of again after leaving port.² A sad fate, indeed, but far preferable to the shocking end of poor Douglas, who was the only botanist that anticipated Bertero in the discovery of the arboreous genera of Juan Fernandez Compositæ. Yet Bertero was the first to make them known to the world; and two of the genera and most of the species were first published from his specimens. The third genus, *Dendroseris*, was founded upon a specimen of one species collected in Masafuera by Cuming. The arboreous Compositæ which constitute the most peculiar element in the native vegetation were published, partly by Decaisne,³ and partly by De Candolle; and Colla⁴ published descriptions and rude figures of a large number of Bertero's Chilian and Juan Fernandez plants. Fortunately, he cites in full the inscriptions on Bertero's labels, thus greatly facilitating the identification of many of them.

Here follows the substance of Bertero's sketch of the vegetation, in which are intercalated the names of the plants adopted in this work.

The country was very well wooded, but the species of trees were few in number. The Canelo (*Drimys chilensis*) [*Drimys confertifolia*], the Mayu (*Zanthoxylum mayu*), and the Luma or Temu (*Myrtus?*) [*Myrtus fernandeziana*] were the commonest; some of the trees were of a prodigious size. Sandalwood was only found in a dead condition, and usually half-buried in the earth. Proficients state, he says, that it is of better quality than that of the Sandwich Islands.

Although in the same latitude as Valparaiso, Juan Fernandez possesses a markedly different vegetation, approaching, perhaps, nearer to that of Chiloe Island; yet there were some Californian⁵ and a few New Zealand plants—*Tetragonia expansa*, the *Zanthoxylum*, three species of *Peperomia*, and three species of tree-ferns are examples. Twelve to fifteen species of ferns had taken possession of more than half of the ground; the rest was either wooded or wholly denuded of plants. A Palm, known in the country by the name of "Chonta," inhabited the slopes of the highest mountains. Bertero did not see the flower before it was blown, but believed this Palm should constitute a new genus.

Resina, highly estimated in Chili on account of its reputed medicinal properties, is a

¹ Notice sur l'Histoire naturelle de l'île Juan Fernandez, extraite d'une lettre de M. Bertero : *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, xxi. 1830, p. 344.

² Caldcleugh in Hooker's *Botanical Miscellany*, iii. p. 303.

³ Guillemin's *Archives de Botanique*, i. et ii., and Delessert's *Icones Selectæ Plantarum*, iv.

⁴ *Plantæ Rariores in Regionibus Chilensibus a Clarissimo M. D. Bertero nuper detectæ et ab A. Colla in lucem editæ*.—*Memorie della Reale Accademia della Scienze di Torino*, xxxvii., 1834, pp. 41–85; xxxviii., 1835, pp. 1–42, 117–142; xxxix., 1836, pp. 1–56.

⁵ This is a mistake; the two or three ferns Bertero supposed to be the same as Californian are not so.