

## APPENDIX

### ON THE VEGETATION OF SAN AMBROSIO AND SAN FELIX.

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FROM San Ambrosio and San Felix we have only seen fragments, without flowers or fruit, of three plants, doubtless Compositæ, collected by Dr Coppinger of H.M.S. "Alert;" but Dr R. A. Philippi<sup>1</sup> has published some particulars of the physical conformation and vegetation of these islands, which is reproduced here in a condensed form, for the little that is known seems to indicate a distinct affinity with the flora of Juan Fernandez.

San Ambrosio and San Felix are in the same longitude as Juan Fernandez, and in about 26° S. latitude, opposite the harbour of Caldera, and distant therefrom nearly 450 English miles. Commander Simpson of the Chilian navy visited both islands in 1869, and reported thereon as follows:—The principal island of the San Ambrosio group is a plateau, about 1300 feet above the level of the sea, and rising perpendicularly from the sea almost all round, with a peak at the south-west end 125 feet higher. On the east side is an arched triangular rock some 125 feet high, running north and south, and separated from the main island by a channel a hundred yards wide. Besides this, there is another rock about sixty-five feet high; and in continuation of the same, distant about three-quarters of a nautical mile, a conical rock 130 feet high, which being white with birds' dung, looked in the distance like a boat under sail. North-west of San Ambrosio, some 200 yards, another rock was visible. The north side of the island is free from rocks, but the south side is studded with reefs. All along the north side only two small bays were seen where landing was feasible, one, half a nautical mile from the north-west point, and the other in the middle. It was only from the latter that the high land could be reached by ascending a small ravine that there runs down to the coast. Learning from Findlay's "Directory of the Pacific Ocean" that a copious spring of good fresh water was reported to exist on the top, it was resolved to make the ascent, which was not accomplished without much difficulty and an hour's toil. On reaching the top of the island, it was found to be nearly elliptical in shape, and two and a half nautical miles long by one broad, and traversed from north to south by ravines, in which were traces of fresh water. But, although the island was traversed in all directions, only sufficient water was found to quench the thirst of the party; therefore it was inferred that the person who informed

<sup>1</sup> *Bot. Zeit.*, 1870, pp. 496–502, t. 2.—Vegetation der Inseln San Ambrosio und San Felix.