

“The main island, as viewed from seawards, is seen to be densely wooded everywhere. Along the summits of the ridges cocoanut-palms show out against the sky, accompanied by areca-palms, as can be made out on a nearer view. The general dark-green mass of vegetation on the hillsides is festooned with creepers, and the smaller outlying islands dotted about in front of the main island are all thickly wooded. The inhabited ones are distinguished at once by the large number of cocoanut-trees growing upon them and forming the main feature of their vegetation. I landed twice upon the mainland. The trees where the shore is not swampy overhang the sea with immense horizontal branches. The bases of many of the trunks of these trees are constantly washed by the waves; but they nevertheless have large woody fungi growing upon them, sometimes attached so low down that they are frequently immersed in salt water. The overhanging branches are loaded with a thick growth of epiphytes; and I had to wade up to my middle in the sea in order to collect specimens of orchids and ferns which hung often only a couple of feet above the water. In other places the shore is swampy, and is either covered with mangroves, or with a dense growth of high trees with tall straight trunks, so closely set that it was very sensibly dark beneath them. In such a grove near Pigeon Island, a small outlier near the anchorage, whilst the ground beneath is bare and muddy, and beset with the bare roots of the trees, the trunks of the trees and fallen logs are covered with a most luxuriant growth of feathery mosses and *Jungermannia*. On one of these tree-trunks I found a very curious and rare fern, known before only from Samoa and New Caledonia (*Trichomanes peltatum*). The fronds of the fern are circular in form, and, connected by a slender rhizome, adhere in rows to the bark. They are pressed absolutely flat against the bark, so as to look like an adherent crust, and have all the appearance of a *Riccia* or some such liverwort, for which indeed I took them, as I gathered specimens by shaving off the bark. A species of adders'-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum pendulum*), unlike our humble little English form, grows in abundance, attached to tree stems with long pendulous fronds as much as a yard in length.”

Ki Island, as described by Wallace,¹ is very rugged and mountainous, the mountains rising to a height of three or four thousand feet, and being everywhere covered with a lofty, dense, unbroken forest, like the low, flat Arrou. Further particulars respecting the botany and physical features of this and the other islands are wanting.

Little or nothing beyond the foregoing extracts seems to have been published on the botany of the islands under consideration;² even in Miquel's *Flora Indiæ Batavæ*, which professedly includes them, they are very rarely mentioned, if at all, in the distribution of the species; Amboina, Ceram, and Timor, on the other hand, being commonly cited. Indeed, the flora of the first-named island forms the foundation of the great illustrated *Herbarium Amboinense* of Rumpf, which was written during the latter part of the seventeenth century, and published about the middle of the eighteenth. It is one of the few pre-Linnean works commonly cited in modern publications. The botany of Timor is also tolerably well known, and forms the subject of a special treatise³ by the late Professor Decaisne, based upon collections made by the naturalists of various French expeditions. For purposes of comparisons the statistics of this flora will be given below.

¹ *Malay Archipelago*, p. 176 *et seq.*, London, 1869.

² A number of plants published by Dr Ed. Beccari had been overlooked: a list is added at p. 223 *et seq.*

³ *Herbarii Timorensis Descriptio*.