

*populnea*, *Corchorus olitorius*, *Tribulus cistoides*, *Suriana maritima*, *Ximenia americana*, *Dodonæa viscosa*, *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Sesbania aculeata*, *Desmodium umbellatum*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Canavalia obtusifolia*, *Vigna lutea*, *Sophora tomentosa*, *Cæsalpinia bonducella*, *Cassia sophera*, *Entada scandens*, *Acacia farnesiana*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Luffa ægyptiaca*, *Lagenaria vulgaris*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Morinda citrifolia*, *Adenostemma viscosum*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Asclepias curassavica*, *Ipomœa biloba*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Boerhaavia diffusa*, *Pisonia aculeata*, *Amarantus viridis*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Salsola kali*, *Cassytha filiformis*, *Euphorbia pilulifera*, *Ricinus communis*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Commelina nudiflora*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Cyperus ferox*, *Panicum sanguinale*, *Setaria verticillata*, *Imperata arundinacea*, and *Eleusine indica*.

Three of these 47 also occur in the south of Europe, namely, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Amarantus viridis*, and *Salsola kali*.

The present general diffusion of these plants is due to a variety of causes, of which there are two primary ones, namely, cultivation and natural dispersion; the latter including every agency, except that arising out of the direct or indirect interference of man. The plants owing their wide range to cultivation fall into two categories—the cultivated plants, and those associated with them and commonly designated weeds. *Lagenaria vulgaris* and *Canavalia obtusifolia* are examples of the former category, and *Amarantus viridis* and *Euphorbia pilulifera* of the latter; while *Suriana maritima* and *Gyrocarpus jacquini* have perhaps as certainly been dispersed independently of the operations of man. Further particulars of the distribution and probable means of dispersion are given under many of the species in the body of the work.

The following lists of plants from remote oceanic islands show more clearly the cosmopolitan character of the littoral flora of the South-eastern Moluccas than mere words can do.

*List of Plants from the Keeling or Cocos Islands, collected by the late C. DARWIN in 1836.*

<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> , Linn.	<i>Dicliptera burmanni</i> , Nees ?
<i>Triumfetta procumbens</i> , Forst.	<i>Ochrosia parviflora</i> , Hensl.
<i>Pemphis acidula</i> , Forst.	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> , Willd.
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> , Linn.	<i>Achyranthes argentea</i> , Lam. ?
<i>Cæsalpinia bonduc</i> , Roxb.	<i>Urera gaudichaudiana</i> , Hensl.
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i> , Linn. ?	<i>Panicum sanguinale</i> , Linn. ?
<i>Scævola kœnigii</i> , Vahl.	<i>Stenotaphrum lepturoide</i> , Hensl.
<i>Guettarda speciosa</i> , Linn.	<i>Lepturus repens</i> , Forst.
<i>Cordia orientalis</i> , R. Br.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> , Linn.
<i>Tournefortia argentea</i> , Linn.	

The Keeling or Cocos Islands are situated in the Indian Ocean in about 12° S. latitude, and 98° E. longitude. They are low coral formations, and the largest is about five miles long, and a quarter of a mile broad, and the group is about six hundred miles distant from the nearest land. The above list was published<sup>1</sup> by the late Professor

<sup>1</sup> *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, i. p. 337, 1838.