

will probably never be proved, for it has so long been widely spread, both wild and cultivated, and has names in so many languages, that those who have entered most fully into the subject have been unable to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. De Candolle¹ states he formerly believed it to have spread from Western America, but with fuller data and more experience in such questions, he inclines to the opinion that its original home is the Indian Archipelago; but as the thirty other species belonging to the genus are restricted to Tropical America, the first opinion seems the sounder. Jouan, *loc. cit.*, p. 128, says that it is not very widely spread in the Marquesas, though there are always groups of it near the houses of the natives. He further observes that its present wide range is not so much owing to the action of oceanic currents as is generally supposed, because, unless buried in or fixed to the soil, the seed perishes. Mann places it in the category of plants introduced into the Sandwich Islands by the aborigines. Neither this nor any other palm inhabits the Galapagos.

Nipa fruticans, Wurm. b.

Nipa fruticans, Wurm. b. ; Miq., *Fl. Ind. Bat.*, iii. p. 150 ; F. Muell., *Syst. Census Austr. Pl.*, p. 120 ; Wallace, *Malay Archipelago*, ii. p. 200.

ARROU.—This is inserted on the authority of Wallace. It is exceedingly common on the sea-shores of Tropical Asia, from the mouths of the Ganges and the Philippines to New Guinea and North-eastern Australia ; it also occurs in the Solomon Islands.

Orania aruensis, Beccari. (Plate LXV. I.)

Orania aruensis, Beccari, *Malesia*, i. p. 76.

ARROU.—Collected by Dr Beccari in the island of Wokan. For further particulars of this palm consult the list of stranded seeds from the ArroU Islands in the Appendix.

PANDANEÆ.

Pandanus spp.

Pandanus, spp. ; Wallace, *Malay Archipelago*, ii. p. 175.

ARROU.—There are fruits of two or three species of *Pandanus* in the collection. The genus comprises at least fifty species, spread over Tropical Asia, Africa, Australia, and Polynesia, but specially numerous in the Archipelago and the Mascarene Islands, where, in certain districts, they form a very conspicuous feature in the vegetation.

AROIDEÆ.

Imperfect specimens of several members of this Order were collected in the South-eastern Moluccas, among them a variety of *Pothos scandens*, or an allied species, and a

¹ *Origine des Plantes cultivées*, p. 350.