"In several points of the coast there are mangrove swamps, in one of which I collected three species of mangroves. Where the land rises a little higher, so as not to be constantly overflowed by the tide, there is a sandy beach; and the shore is lined by various littoral trees, amongst which a *Barringtonia*, and a tree with oval leaves and a pear-shaped fruit with a stony kernel (*Ochrocarpus ovalifolius*, T. And.), are the most frequent. The trees overhang the sea with immense horizontal branches; and the bases of many of the trees are constantly washed by the waves; but, nevertheless, have large woody fungi growing upon them, sometimes so low down as also to be frequently immersed. The overhanging branches are loaded with epiphytes, all growing thus suspended over the sea, so that I had to wade up to my middle in order to gather many of them. Amongst these epiphytes are several species of orchids, five or six of which were found in flower or fruit, and a plant with woody stem and flowers sessile upon it with succulent bright pink calyces.[1] Growing with these is a *Hymenophyllum* in profusion, forming continuous sheets of green, a *Niphobolus*, and a *Lygodium*, which twines round the branches in all directions; whilst a *Psilotum* and the long light-green pendent fronds of *Ophioglossum pendulum* hang down from the branches in bunches. Further, a nearly white moss [*Leucophanes* sp. ?] forms large, rounded, compact cushions, conspicuous amongst the darker green of the other plants, and reminding me in its habit of antarctic rather than tropical vegetation. *Asplenium nidus* throws up its crowns of fronds in all directions from the branches in great abundance; and the curious inflated boles of a *Hydnophytum*,[2] many of them as much as 1¼ feet in diameter, are perched all about in the forks. I saw no specimens of *Myrmecodia armata*, which occurs so commonly with *Hydnophytum* in Aru and the Moluccas. The kind of littoral vegetation just described was seen best developed at Wyville Point.

"At another part of the coast, in the vicinity of the small river, where the shore, being less sheltered, and exposed to a heavy surf, is not encroached upon to its verge by large trees, several common littoral plants occurred which were not found elsewhere;—a small trailing bean with yellow flower [*Vigna lutea*]; a yellow-flowered composite, usually herbaceous, but here in places forming a woody shrub; the large *Crinum* so abundant on the shores at Aru and in the Philippines; and *Ipomœa biloba*, which, curiously enough, was nowhere very abundant. Three species of *Pandanus* grew here also, together with *Casuarina equisetifolia*, and a white-flowered apocynaceous tree with chocolate-coloured ovoid fruits, and an abundant milky juice [*Cerbera odollam*].

"In Nares Anchorage, not very far from our anchorage, and close to the main island, a small thickly-wooded island (Pigeon Island) is inhabited by immense numbers of a fruit-pigeon (*Carpophaga oceanica*).[3] Large numbers of these pigeons were killed; and I preserved specimens of the fruits contained in their crops, all of which fruits I failed to find or reach in the growing condition. Amongst the fruits were abundance of wild nutmegs and wild coffee-berries. The various species of *Carpophaga* must play a most important *rôle* in the distribution of plants, and especially trees, over the wide region inhabited by them. The crops of the birds are found to contain an astonishing quantity of fruits, some even larger than the nutmeg. Many of the fruits are entirely uninjured, and quite fit for germination; and since, when wounded, and probably also often when frightened, or by accident, the pigeons readily eject these fruits and constantly eject the hard kernels, these birds must constantly be transporting the seeds of trees from one island to another. As soon as ever a few littoral trees, such as *Barringtonia*, have established themselves by drifted seeds upon a fresh

[1] *Medinilla halogeton*, S. Moore, n. sp. [2] *Hydnophytum moseleyanum*, Beccari, n. sp.
[3] *Carpophaga rhodinolæma*, Sclater, Zool. Chall. Exped., part viii. p. 31.