

young barnacles (*Balanus*) and Hydroids. Amongst the logs were many whole uprooted trees. I saw one of these two feet in diameter. The majority of the pieces were of small wood, branches and small stems. The bark was often floating separately. The midribs of the leaves of some pinnate-leaved palm were abundant, and also the stems of a large cane-grass (*Saccharum*), like that so abundant on the shores of the great river Wai Levu, in Fiji.¹ One of these canes was fourteen feet in length, and from one and a half to two inches in diameter. Various fruits of trees and other fragments were abundant, usually floating, confined in the midst of the small aggregations into which the floating timber was almost everywhere gathered. Amongst them were the usual littoral seeds, fruits of two species of *Pandanus*, of *Heritiera littoralis*, of a *Barringtonia*, and of *Ipomœa pes-capræ*. But besides these fruits of littoral plants, there were seeds [and seed-vessels] of forty or fifty species of more inland plants. Very small seeds were as abundant as large ones, the surface-scum being full of them, so that they could be scooped up in quantities with a fine net. With the seeds occurred one or two flowers, or parts of them. I observed an entire absence of leaves, excepting those of the palm, on the midribs of which some of the pinnae were still present. The leaves evidently drop first to the bottom, whilst vegetable drift is floating from ashore. Thus, as the rubbish sinks in the sea-water, a deposit abounding in leaves, but with few fruits and little or no wood, will be formed near shore, whilst the wood and fruits will sink to the bottom farther off land. Much of the wood was floating suspended vertically in the water; and, most curiously, logs and short branch pieces thus floating often occurred in separate groups, apart from the horizontally floating timber. The sunken ends of the wood were not weighted by any attached masses of soil or other load of any kind. Possibly the water penetrates certain kinds of wood more easily in one direction, with regard to its growth, than the other. Hence one end becomes water-logged before the other: I could arrive at no other explanation of the circumstance. It is evident that a wide area of the sea off the mouth of the Ambernoh River is thus constantly covered with driftwood, for the floating wood is inhabited by various animals, which seem to belong to it, as it were. The fruits and woods were covered with the eggs of a Gasteropod Mollusk and with a Hydroid, and the interstices were filled with Radiolarians washed into them, and gathered in masses just as Diatoms in the Antarctic Seas are gathered together in the honeycombed ice. Two species of crab inhabit the logs in abundance, and a small *Dendrocoele* Planarian swarms all over the drift matter, and on the living crabs also. A *Lepas* was common on the logs."

¹ No recognisable specimen of this grass reached Kew.