

Barringtonia and *Calophyllum inophyllum*, have established themselves by means of their drifting seeds on a freshly dry coral islet, the fruit-pigeons alight in the branches in their flight from place to place, and drop the seeds of all kinds of other trees with succulent fruits. I have seen the pigeons thus resting on two or three small littoral trees, which as yet form almost the only vegetation of Observatory Island, a very small islet at Nares Harbour, Admiralty Islands."

Jouan (Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Cherbourg, xi. 1865, p. 101), remarks that, without being exactly rare in the Marquesas, it is by no means so common there as in the Society Islands, and a list of the trees remarkable for their size would not be a long one. He adds:—"The poorest soils are not unfavourable to it, for one often sees seeds that have been cast ashore on the coral islands germinating and growing into trees." H. Mann (Proc. Amer. Acad., vii. p. 156) includes it among the plants he regards as having been introduced into the Sandwich Islands by the aborigines.

The genus *Calophyllum* is also represented in the New World, and there are fruits of one species in Mr Morris's collection of seeds and seed-vessels stranded in Jamaica.

OCHNACEÆ.

Brackenridgea sp. (Plate LXIV., E.)

New Guinea drift.

We are indebted to Dr Beccari for the determination of the genus of this singular seed-vessel, of which there were a dozen or more in the collection, all of them more or less encrusted. *Brackenridgea* was founded on a Fijian shrub, differing, among other things, from *Gomphia* in having "the nearly annular ovule and seed curved around a large projection into the cell of the ovary (in the manner of *Menispermum*), which arises from its inner angle near the base" (A. Gray, Bot. U.S. Expl. Exped., i. p. 361, t. 42). A second species, *Brackenridgea zanguibarica*, is figured in Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*, xi. p. 77, t. 1096, the fruit of which is unknown; but Oliver, *loc. cit.*, says that he regards *Brackenridgea* as a section of *Gomphia* rather than a good genus. *Gomphia hookeri*, Planchon (Hook. Lond. Journ. Bot., vi. p. 3), from the Malayan Peninsula, should likewise be referred to *Brackenridgea*, if the genus be retained. In the present species the curvature of the seed is not caused by a mere intrusion of the side of the carpel; there are two distinct cavities crossing and curving round each other at right angles, the one containing the curved seed, the other empty. This empty cavity gives the fruit its buoyancy.

So far as we are aware, no member of the Ochnaceæ has previously been recorded from New Guinea. Neither Mueller, in his *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants*, nor Beccari, in his *Notes on the Plants collected by D'Albertis, in the New Guinea of the latter*, includes