

surveying voyage. This proves not to be an oak, for since the foregoing was written, Dr Guppy's collections have been presented by him to Kew, and the supposed oak, as Prof. Oliver pointed out, is a laurel. It is a species of *Litsea* (*Tetranthera*), very closely allied to an unnamed one at Kew from New Caledonia. It is only fair to Baron Mueller to state that he did not see the fruit which Dr Guppy excusably mistook for acorns; and the resemblance is so strong that a more experienced observer of botanical characters might have been deceived at first sight. The fruit is the shape of a small acorn—that of *Quercus ilex*, for example, and it is seated in a thickened, cupular perianth; and the solitary seed is exalbuminous, with large cotyledons filling the whole cavity.

## PALMÆ.

*Nipa fruticans*, Wurmbr.

Seed-vessels in the New Guinea drift.

The comparatively restricted area of this absolutely littoral palm is given in the enumeration of the plants from the South-eastern Moluccas. It is an exceedingly abundant plant in many parts of the Malayan Archipelago especially, covering large areas in the tidal swamps. Chamisso (*Bemerkungen auf einer Entdeckungs-Reise*) enumerates this among other seeds cast ashore at Java in a germinating condition. Sir Joseph Hooker, describing the vegetation of the Sunderbunds (*Himalayan Journals*, ii. p. 355), says: "Receding from the Megna, the water became salter and *Nipa fruticans* appeared, throwing up pale yellow-green tufts of feathery leaves from a short, thick, creeping stem, and bearing at the base of its leaves its great head of nuts, of which millions were floating on the water and germinating in the mud." Dr Guppy has recently sent it from the Solomon Islands.

*Calamus* sp.

Fruits and a cluster of the spines from the rhachis of a leaf in the New Guinea drift. The fruit was decayed, and contained no seed.

## PANDANEÆ.

*Pandanus* spp.

New Guinea drift.

There are no specimens in the collection, but Moseley (*Notes by a Naturalist*, p. 433) mentions that he observed the seeds of two species.

Besides the foregoing more or less correctly determined seeds and seed-vessels from the New Guinea drift, there are several which we cannot refer even to their natural orders.