

Comparatively fresh seeds of *Cæsalpinia bonducella* and of *Cæsalpinia bonduc* were tried at Kew, to see whether they would float in salt water, and the former floated, while the latter sank. Older seeds of the two species were tried with the same result, though the seeds of *Cæsalpinia bonduc* settled down very slowly, and might perhaps float on water of the specific gravity of the Atlantic. Whether the very light pod retains the seeds for any length of time after immersion in water we have been unable to ascertain.

Cassia fistula, Linn.

Cassia fistula, Linn.; Amœn. Acad., viii. p. 3; Benth. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., xxvii. p. 514; Oliver, Fl. Trop. Afr., ii. p. 270, *in nota*, sub. *Cassia sieberiana*; Griseb., Fl. Brit. W. Ind., p. 206.

Sea-shore at Palisadoes Plantation, Jamaica.

This is one of the seeds, already alluded to, recorded by Linnæus as having been thrown up on the coast of Norway in a living condition; and Professor Martins (Bull. Soc. Bot. France, iv. p. 326) states that he had seen seeds which were cast ashore in the south of France germinate perfectly. In the latter case the seeds were still in the pod, and most likely this is usually the case, for the pod is indehiscent and breaks up very tardily. This pod is cylindrical, and from one to two feet long, with numerous seeds separated from each other by transverse partitions. *Cassia fistula* is now very widely diffused in warm countries, both in a wild and cultivated state; but it doubtless owes its present wide area to man rather than any other agency. Bentham treats it as indigenous in Asia, and as possibly so in Africa.

Dimorphandra mora, Benth.

Dimorphandra mora, Benth. in Benth. et Hook. f., Gen. Plant., i. p. 588.

Mora excelsa, Benth. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., xviii. t. 16; Griseb., Fl. Brit. W. Ind., p. 216.

Sea-shore at Palisadoes Plantation, Jamaica.

This is one of the finest and commonest forest trees of British Guiana, and it has also been collected in Trinidad; but it is unknown from elsewhere. Only an empty pod was stranded in Jamaica. The seed of *Dimorphandra mora* is one of the largest of the dicotyledonous class, and its embryo is one of the largest in the vegetable kingdom, being sometimes as much as four and a half inches across the broadest part, in striking contrast to the small embryo of such large monocotyledonous seeds as the cocoa-nut. But this is far surpassed by an undescribed¹ species in the Kew Herbarium, collected by Sutton Hayes in the swamps of the Rio Grande, Panama. An embryo of this, preserved in spirit, and therefore perhaps a little swollen, measures fourteen inches round, and six and a half inches across in the widest part. This is probably the largest embryo in the vegetable kingdom.

¹ *Dimorphandra oleifera*, Triana MSS. in 'Herb. Kew.' ' *Dimorphandra moræ*] affinis, a¹ qua differt foliis bijugis oblongo-lanceolatis longe acuminatis, spicis lateralibus subsolitariis, legumine semineque multo majori.