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Report On The Flora Of Ile Des Aigrettes, Mauritius

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even while in the act of vomiting and holding the basins in their hands, some dropped off to sleep, as did others on their feet while being walked up and down. It was found that in the worst cases no more than half an ounce could have been chewed. The day after, all had recovered.

REPORT ON THE FLORA OF ILE DES AIGRETTES, MAURITIUS.
By Surgeon-Major H. H. JOHNSTON, Army Medical Staff,
D.Sc., F.L.S.

Ile des Aigrettes is situated about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile north-east of Pointe d'Esny, on the south-east coast of Mauritius, from which it is separated by a shallow sea, 2 fathoms deep at the deepest part.

The island is irregularly circular in form, about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile broad, and at the highest part, in the centre, it reaches a height of 45 feet above sea-level. The surface of the island is rather flat, and the margin is considerably undermined by the sea. The island is formed of coralline limestone, and there is no fresh water in it. At the north end there is a lime-kiln and a caretaker's house, in the neighbourhood of which there is some waste ground and a few cultivated plants. The mean annual temperature in the shade is about 75° Fahr., and at Anse Jonchée, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Ile des Aigrettes, on the main island of Mauritius, the mean annual rainfall is 88.58 inches.

I botanised on Ile des Aigrettes on three occasions, viz. 18th August 1888, 4th March 1889, and 20th June 1890.

The following table shows the number of identified species in each of the three divisions of the vegetable kingdom :—

CLASS.	Native.	Naturalised.	Planted.	Total.
Dicotyledones . .	21	17	6	44
Monocotyledones . .	8	1	1	10
Cryptogamia . .	1	—	—	1
Total	30	18	7	55

The 30 native species include 16 herbs, 9 shrubs, 3 climbers, 1 parasite, and 1 marine flowering plant.

Ipomœa glaberrima, Bojer, and *Phyllanthus mauritianus*, H. H. Johnston, are the only native species which are not recorded from Mauritius in Baker's "Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles." The former was found in Flat Island by Horne in July 1885, and by me in Ile Vakois in 1889, and in Ile Marianne in 1890, in all of which islands it is undoubtedly native. The latter is a new endemic species.

Gymnosporia trigyna, Baker, *Oldenlandia Sieberi*, Baker, and *Phyllanthus mauritianus*, H. H. Johnston, are the only three species I found on Ile des Aigrettes, which are endemic in the Mauritius group of islands, and not found in any other part of the world.

The greater number of the 18 species of more or less naturalised plants occurred on the waste ground near the lime-kiln and caretaker's house. Three of the naturalised species, *Sophora tomentosa*, Linn., *Ipomœa Nil*, Roth., and *Nicotiana Tabacum*, Linn., are not recorded from Mauritius in Baker's "Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles," published in 1877.

With the exception of the waste ground at the north end of the island, the surface is clothed with a dense mass of shrubs, intermingled with climbing plants and a parasite, *Cassytha filiformis*, Linn., belonging to the Lauracæ.

In addition to the plants identified and enumerated in this report, I found one species each of the following genera, viz. *Polyscias* (?), *Diospyros*, *Ficus* (?), *Draccena*, and *Phyllanthus*, but as the plants were neither in flower nor fruit, they have not been identified. I also observed among the cultivated plants a species of *Cucumis* and a garden plant, which have not been identified. I was informed by Mr. A. Daruty de Grandpré that he had found an orchid on this island, but it was not observed by me.

As Ile des Aigrettes is easily accessible, I hope to revisit it at some future time, and further investigate its flora, which will probably yield a considerable number of species additional to those recorded by me in my present report.

The remainder of my paper contains a complete list of all the native, naturalised, and cultivated plants which were observed and identified by me in the island. I have followed the nomenclature of Baker's "Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles." Under several of the species I have

entered notes of my own, taken from living specimens. These notes, except in the case of *Premna serratifolia*, Linn., are supplementary to the descriptions contained in Baker's "Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles," and they are not intended to be complete descriptions of the plants to which they refer.

ABBREVIATIONS.

Bojer, Hort. Maur.—Hortus Mauritianus. By W. Bojer. 1837.
 Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych.—Flora of the Mauritius and the Seychelles.
 By J. G. Baker. 1877.
 DC., Prod.—Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis, Parts
 i.-xvii. By A. P. and A. de Candolle. 1824-1873.

An asterisk before the name of a species or natural order means that all the plants belonging to that species or natural order are not native, but are more or less naturalised in the Mauritius group of islands. The names of cultivated species and natural orders of plants in *Ile des Aigrettes* are enclosed in brackets, thus [].

CLASS I.—DICOTYLEDONES.

* PAPAVERACEÆ.

* ARGEMONE MEXICANA, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 5. Common on waste ground, 20th June 1890. Naturalised. A native of America.

[MORINGACEÆ.]

[MORINGA PTERYGOSPERMA, Gærtn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 9. Only one tree 20 feet high, planted near the lime-kiln, 20th June 1890. A native of tropical Asia.]

MELIACEÆ.

QUIVISIA MAURITIANA, Baker, var., *Q. ovata*, Cav.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 46. Coralline limestone, 20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. An erect shrub 7 feet high, with glabrous brown bark. Leaves subcoriaceous, shining green above, paler green beneath. Calyx obscurely thinly-silky on the outside, pale yellow; teeth 4. Petals 4, obscurely densely-silky on the outside,

pale yellow with a pale, purplish, yellow base. Stamens 8; filaments united in a cylindrical reddish-purple tube, glabrous except a few short hairs at the rim; anthers sessile, purplish-yellow. Ovary tomentose, pale yellow; style glabrous, whitish tinged with purple; stigma glabrous, whitish.

CELASTRACEÆ.

GYMNOSPORIA TRIGYNA, Baker. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 50. Coralline limestone, 5 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. This species is endemic in the Mauritius group of islands.

Branchlets stout, terete, glabrous, greyish-brown. Leaves obtuse or emarginate at the apex, coriaceous, green above, paler green beneath, with a reddish purple margin and petiole. Calyx-teeth 4–5, glabrous, reddish purple, persistent, finally becoming brown. Corolla $\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad when expanded; petals white, round. Disk yellow. Stamens 4–5; filament incurved, glabrous, whitish; anthers pale yellow; pollen ellipsoid, glabrous, yellow. Ovary 3–4-celled, glabrous, pale purplish. Stigma 3–4-lobed, pale purplish yellow. Capsule $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad, globose, glabrous, pale purplish green, 3–4-celled, dehiscing loculicidally into 3–4 valves, which remain united at the base and become brown. Seeds $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, ellipsoid, triquetrous, convex on the back, flattened on the sides, glabrous, pale shining green, arillate at the base, turning yellowish brown after the dehiscence of the capsule, 1–2 in each cell of the capsule.

RHAMNACEÆ.

SCUTIA COMMERSONI, Brong.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 51. Coralline limestone, 15–20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. Leaves shining-green above, paler green beneath. Drupe $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$ inch broad, globose, glabrous, dark purplish black, juicy; persistent calyx-tube dark brown.

* *COLUBRINA ASIATICA*, Broug.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 52. Common on coralline limestone, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Naturalised.

This species, which is a native of the Seychelles, Tropical Asia, and Polynesia, is recorded as naturalised at "la Petite Rivière Noire," Mauritius, under *Ceanthus asiaticus*, Linn., in Bojer, Hort. Maur., p. 70.

It is recorded as native on the shore and in the filao (*Casuarina equisetifolia*, Forst.) plantations in Flat Island, in Horne, Notes on Flora of Flat Island, pp. 7 and 8, published in 1886.

It was seen by me growing on coral sand, 5 feet above sea-level, Ile du Morne, on 7th November 1889. Naturalised. Capsules $\frac{1}{3}$ inch broad, globose, glabrous, brown, dehiscent by 3 valves. Seeds $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, triquetrous, with a convex back and flat sides, glabrous, brown.

LEGUMINOSÆ.

* *SOPHORA TOMENTOSA*, Linn.—DC. Prod. ii. 95. Common on coralline limestone, at the seashore, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Naturalised. Shrub 8–10 feet high, erect. Pod 1–8 seeded.

One plant, 3 feet high, of this species was seen by me growing on coralline limestone, 10 feet above sea-level, Ile Marianne, 19th March 1890. Naturalised.

In Bojer, Hort. Maur., p. 83, it is recorded as naturalised in Ile aux Tonneliers, at the entrance of Port Louis harbour; but it is not recorded from Mauritius in Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych.

S. tomentosa, Linn., is a native of India and the West Indies.

* *CÆSALPINIA BONDUCELLA*, Fleming.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 88. Coralline limestone, at the seashore, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Naturalised. Only one shrub, 5 feet high, was seen by me. Pod 1–2-seeded. This species is spread everywhere in the tropics, but in Mauritius it is naturalised.

* *CASSIA OCCIDENTALIS*, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 89. Rare on waste ground, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Naturalised. This species is widely spread in the tropics, but in Mauritius it is naturalised.

[*TAMARINDUS INDICA*, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 91. Only one tree 25 feet high, planted near the lime-kiln, 20th June 1890. The native country of the Tamarind is not clearly known.]

LYTHRACEÆ.

PEMPHIS ACIDULA, Forst.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 101. Coralline limestone, at seashore, 5 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. Leaves, oblong-ob lanceolate, green on both surfaces, slightly succulent. Calyx-teeth 5–6. Petals 5–6. Stamens 10 or 12. Capsule $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, sub-globose, glabrous, brown, crowned with the persistent brown style. Seeds $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, oblong, triquetrous, glabrous, shining pale yellow.

* PASSIFLORACEÆ.

* *PASSIFLORA SUBEROSA*, Linn. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 105. Coralline limestone, 20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Naturalised. A native of Tropical America.

COMBRETACEÆ.

[*TERMINALIA CATAPPA*, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 111. Only one tree 15 feet high, and two young plants planted near the lime-kiln, 20th June 1890. A native of Tropical Asia, the Seychelles, and Rodriguez.]

PORTULACEÆ.

PORTULÆA OLERACEA, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 125. Common on waste ground, 10 feet above sea-level, and on coralline limestone at the seashore, 4th March 1889. Native.

CUCURBITACEÆ.

[*CUCURBITA PEPO*, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 131. Planted near the lime-kiln, 20th June 1890.]

RUBIACEÆ.

OLDENLANDIA SIEBERI, Baker. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 138. Coralline limestone, at seashore, 5 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. This species is endemic in the Mauritius group of islands.

Stems $\frac{1}{2}$ –6 inches long, terete. Leaves minutely-serrate, glabrous, green above, paler green beneath, sub-coriaceous. Calyx $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long, glabrous, green, persistent, finally becoming brown; teeth 4 as long as the tube, lanceolate, acute. Corolla $\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad when expanded; tube glabrous, white; limb 4-lobed, with 4 spreading, ovate-deltoid, mucronate, glabrous, faintly pinkish-white lobes. Anthers white. Capsule $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, turbinate-compressed, glabrous, brown, dehiscing at the top between the persistent calyx-teeth. Seeds many, $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long, oblong or angular-globose, glabrous, finely wrinkled, brown.

COMPOSITÆ.

BIDENS PILOSA, Linn. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 169. Waste ground, 15 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

*TRIDAX PROCUMBENS, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 170. Waste ground, 15 feet above sea-level, and coralline limestone, 18th August 1888. Naturalised. A native of Mexico and the West Indies.

*PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS, Linn. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 174. Waste ground, 15 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Naturalised. A native of tropical America.

SONCHUS OLERACEUS, Linn. ex parte. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 180. Waste ground, 10 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

GOODENIACEÆ.

SCÆVOLA KÖENIGII, Vahl.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 182. Coralline limestone, 20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

BORAGINACEÆ.

EHRETIA PETIOLARIS, Lam.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 201. Coralline limestone, 10 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

Shrub 4–7 feet high, with terete, glabrous, brown branches and green branchlets. Leaves green above, paler green beneath. Calyx $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, 5-toothed, glabrous, green, persistent, finally becoming yellowish-green; teeth deltoid, half as long as the tube. Corolla $\frac{1}{7}$ inch long, glabrous, white. Stamens glabrous, white. Ovary glabrous, green; style glabrous, pale green; stigma capitate, 2-lobed, green. Drupe $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{5}{16}$ inch broad, depresso-globose, glabrous, shining-red, juicy, crowned with the persistent black base of the style. Pyrenes 4, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, triquetrous, yellowish with a whitish spot on the inner border, flat on the sides, convex on the back, which has 6 prominent longitudinal cartilaginous ridges.

TOURNEFORTIA ARGENTEA, Linn. fil.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 201. Coralline limestone, at seashore, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Native. Only one shrub seen by me.

CONVOLVULACEÆ.

* *IPOMŒA NIL*, Roth. (*CONVOLVULUS*, Linn. Bot. Reg. t. 276).—Common on waste ground, 5–20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Naturalised.

It was also found by me on coralline limestone, 10–15 feet above sea-level, rare at the north side of Ile de la Passe, on 26th October 1888. Naturalised.

This species, which occurs round the world in the tropics, is recorded as naturalised in great quantity at “Grand-Port,” and in the ravines about “Rduit,” Mauritius, under “*Pharbitis Nil*,” in Bojer, Hort. Maur., p. 227. It is recorded as naturalised in Rodriguez by Balfour, in Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 209.

[*IPOMŒA BATATAS*, Lam.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 210. Planted near the lime-kiln, 20th June 1890. This species is the common cultivated sweet potato.]

IPOMŒA PES-CAPRÆ, Roth.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 211. Coralline limestone, 5 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Native.

IPOMŒA GLABERRIMA, Bojer, in Hook. Journ. i. 357.—Common on coralline limestone at the seashore, 5-10 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

Stems stout, terete, glabrous, pale green, wide twining right to left round shrubs; juice milky. Leaves $2\frac{1}{2}$ –5 inches long, $2\frac{1}{4}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, green above, paler green beneath, membranous; petiole 1–4 inches long, pale green. Peduncles 1–3-flowered. Flowers inodorous. Sepals green, with a dark-purple obtuse apex, persistent, finally becoming reflexed, dry, pale brown above, and dark brown beneath. Corolla-tube $2\frac{1}{2}$ –3 inches long, pilose on the inside, pale greenish-yellow; limb 3–4 inches broad when expanded, white, with 5 radiating bands, which are pale whitish-yellow above, and pale greenish-yellow beneath. Capsule $\frac{3}{4}$ –1 inch broad, depresso-sub-globose, longitudinally grooved on two opposite sides, glabrous, pale yellowish-brown, crowned with the persistent base of the style, 2-celled. Seeds 1–2 in a cell, $\frac{1}{3}$ inch broad, globose-compressed, when one seed in a cell, globose-triquetrous when two seeds in a cell, densely clothed with dark blackish-brown tomentum, encircled with a fringe of long pale brown hairs.

This species was found by me growing common on coralline limestone at the seashore, Ile Vakois, 5th September 1889; and common on coralline limestone at the seashore, on the north side of Ile Marianne, 19th March 1890. Native on both islands.

I. glaberrima, Bojer, which occurs from Polynesia to Zambesi-land, is not recorded from Mauritius in Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych. It is recorded as cultivated in the Royal Botanic Garden, at Pamplemousses, Mauritius, under *Calonyction comosperma*, Boj., in Bojer, Hort. Maur. p. 228. It is recorded as native in Flat Island by Horne in Horne, Notes on Flora of Flat Island, pp. 17 and 18, published in 1886. In Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 211, it is recorded by Bojer and Wright as native in the Seychelles, in bushy places near the shore.

SOLANACEÆ.

* *LYCOPERSICUM GALENI*, Miller.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 216. Waste ground, 10 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Scarcely naturalised. This species is the cultivated Cherry Tomato.

* *NICOTIANA TABACUM*, Linn. — A. DC., Prod., xiii. sect. i. 557. Waste ground, 20th June 1890. Scarcely naturalised.

On 2nd September 1889 I found this species, which is the common cultivated Tobacco plant and a native of South America, growing on coralline limestone, 3-40 feet above sea-level, on Ile aux Fouquets, where it is naturalised and common on the sheltered north-west side of the island.

In Bojer, Hort. Maur., p. 238, *N. Tabacum*, Linn., is recorded as cultivated in Mauritius; and in Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 218, it is recorded by Balfour as "spontaneous" in Rodriguez, but it is not recorded from Mauritius, where it is still cultivated.

ASCLEPIADACEÆ.

SARCOSTEMMA VIMINALE, R. Br. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 227. Coralline limestone, 5 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. Corolla pale whitish-yellow, with a white outer corona. Stigma faintly 2-lobed at the apex, glabrous, pale green.

TYLOPHORA LÆVIGATA, Dcne.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 228. Coralline limestone, 15 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Native. Stem-juice watery. Calyx $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, 5-lobed. Corolla $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch broad when expanded, 5-7-lobed, greenish yellow, tinged purplish on both surfaces of the tube. Stamens 5-7. Ovaries 2, free, glabrous, pale green, one only developing into fruit; styles 2, free, as long as the ovaries, subulate, glabrous, pale green; stigma flatly convex on the top with an apical pit and a 5-7-angled margin, glabrous, pale green, except the pale purplish margin. Follicle 2-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, fusiform, acuminate, with a hooked apex, glabrous, pale brownish-green, dehiscing by the ventral suture. Seeds numerous,

ascending, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, oblong-ovate, with a compressed margin and truncate apex bearing a tuft of long white silky hairs, glabrous, brown.

VERBENACEÆ.

STACHYTARPHETA INDICA, Vahl. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 251. Coralline limestone, 20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. The plants of this species observed by me in Ile des Aigrettes, and near the sea-level round Port Louis, Mauritius, had decumbent stems and paler blue corollas than those in the higher elevations of Mauritius, where the plants are more robust, with erect stems and deep blue corollas.

* *LANTANA CAMARA*, Linn. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 253. Waste ground, 20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Naturalised. Corolla yellow. A native of Tropical America, now very common in Mauritius.

PREMNA SERRATIFOLIA, Linn. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 254. Coralline limestone, 5 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

An erect shrub 4–5 feet high, with stout, terete, glabrous, brown branchlets. Leaves opposite, 3–5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 2–4 inches broad, oblong, rounded or slightly cordate at the base, narrowed to a short point at the apex, entire, glabrous, shining green above, paler green beneath, coriaceous, penninerved, with 4–6 prominent erecto-patent main veins on each side of the midrib; petiole $\frac{1}{2}$ –2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, glabrous, pale green or purplish-green. Flowers copious, minute, in much-branched, peduncled, terminal, trichotomous cymes 2–4 inches broad. Bracts $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, deltoid, puberulent beneath, pale green. Pedicels very short, puberulent. Calyx $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, campanulate, 4-toothed, puberulent on the outside, marked with radiating veins on the inside, pale green, persistent, remaining pale green; teeth minute, broadly deltoid, obtuse. Corolla $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, campanulate, 4-lobed, glabrous, except the pilose throat, pale green; lobes nearly as long as the tubes, spreading, broadly oblong, obtuse. Stamens 4, inserted in the throat of the corolla-tube, alternate with the corolla lobes, exserted, glabrous;

filament pale green; anther pale greenish-yellow. Ovary superior, glabrous, pale green, 4-celled, with 1 ovule in each cell; style exserted, filiform, glabrous, pale green, bifid, with 2 short recurved branches. Drupe $\frac{1}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, globose, shining black, juicy; endocarp bony, warted, 4-celled, with 1 seed in each cell.

AMARANTHACEÆ.

* *AMARANTHUS GANGETICUS*, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 267. Waste ground, 10 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Naturalised. This species is commonly cultivated in the tropics of the Old World.

[*ALTERNANTHERA PARONYCHOIDES*, A. St.-Hil.—A. DC. Prod. xiii., sect. ii. 358. Planted in a border at a roadside, 4th March 1889. A native of America.]

* CHENOPODIACEÆ.

* *CHENOPODIUM AMBROSIODES*, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 270. Waste ground, 10 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Naturalised. A cosmopolitan weed, probably of Tropical American origin.

LAURACEÆ.

* *TETRANTHERA LAURIFOLIA*, Jacq.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 292. Coralline limestone, 15 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Naturalised. Only two shrubs, 8 feet high, observed by me. A native of tropical Asia.

CASSYTHA FILIFORMIS, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 292. Parasitic on shrubs, 10–20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

Stems $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{6}$ inch in diameter, terete, striate, glabrous, green or greenish-yellow. Peduncle obscurely pilose, terete, striate, green, with 3 minute ovate ciliate bracts at the base. Bracteoles and outer perianth-lobes ovate, pale whitish-green, glabrous except the pale brown ciliate margin. Inner perianth-lobes glabrous, greenish-white. Anthers orange-yellow, introrse, dehiscing by two flaps from below upwards. Ovary ovoid, glabrous, green; style and stigma glabrous, pale whitish-green. Persistent

perianth-tube $\frac{4}{12}$ – $\frac{5}{12}$ inch broad, globose, glabrous, green, crowned with the persistent dark brown perianth-lobes. Fruit $\frac{1}{4}$ to under $\frac{1}{3}$ inch broad, ovoid-globose, glabrous, finely wrinkled, black, crowned with the persistent black base of the style.

* CASUARINEÆ.

* CASUARINA EUISETIFOLIA, Forst.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 294. Waste ground, 5–15 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Naturalised. Only one tree 15 feet high, and one young plant observed by me. A native of the Malay Archipelago.

EUPHORBIACEÆ.

EUPHORBIA PILULIFERA, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 303. Waste ground, 10 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Native.

PHYLLANTHUS MAURITIANUS, n. sp.—Coralline limestone, 5 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Native.

Stems $\frac{1}{2}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, erect. Leaves green above, glaucous beneath, with a purplish margin. Bracts pale purple. Male and female flowers 1–2 in the axils of the leaves, either two flowers of the same sex, or one flower of each sex, in the same axil. Perianth-lobes 6, pale green, with a purple apex. Stamens 3; anther pale yellow. Ovary green; styles 3, spreading, bifid at the apex, pale green. Capsule $\frac{1}{20}$ inch broad, depresso-globose, glabrous, pale brownish-green.

A full description of this new species will be published by me in Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin., vol. xx., February 1895, in my "Report on the Flora of the Outlying Islands in Mahébourg Bay, Mauritius."

PHYLLANTHUS NIRURI, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 309. Waste ground, 5–15 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Native.

* RICINUS COMMUNIS, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 316. Waste ground, 15 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Scarcely naturalised. The castor oil plant is a native of tropical Asia.

CLASS II.—MONOCOTYLEDONES.

NAIADACEÆ.

HALOPHILA OVATA, Gaud.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 393. Submarine coral sand, uncovered at ebb tide, 20 yards from the shore, 20th June 1890. Native. Common.

GRAMINEÆ.

PASPALUM DISTICHUM, Burm.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 431. Coralline limestone at the seashore, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Native. Stems 3–4 feet long, decumbent at the base, then erect.

PANICUM SANGUINALE, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 435. Waste ground, 5 feet above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Native.

* *PANICUM MAXIMUM*, Jacq.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 436. Waste ground, 20 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Naturalised. A native of Guinea.

STENOTAPHRUM COMPLANATUM, Schrank.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 440. Common on coralline limestone, 20th June 1890. Native.

ELEUSINE INDICA, Gærtn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 451. Waste ground, 18th August 1888. Native.

DACTYLOCTENIUM ÆGYPTIACUM, Willd. — Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 452. Waste ground, 15 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native. Stems tufted. Spikes 2–3, $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Stigmas whitish. Inner empty glumes oblong, deeply boat-shaped, awned.

CHLORIS BARBATA, Sw.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 453. Waste ground, 5–20 feet above sea-level, 4th March 1889. Native.

ERAGROSTIS TENELLA, Beauv.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 455 (fide J. G. Baker). Coralline limestone, 10 feet

above sea-level, 20th June 1890. Native. Stems $\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot long, tufted, spreading. Leaf-blades 1 – $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Panicle $1\frac{1}{2}$ – 9 inches long, with a tuft of long white bristles at the base of the branches. Spikelets $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long. Flowering glume not ciliated. Pale conspicuously ciliated.

[ZEA MAYS, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 458. Planted near the lime-kiln, 20th June 1890. This species is the common cultivated maize.]

CLASS III.—CRYPTOGAMIA.

FILICES.

POLYPODIUM PHYMATODES, Linn.—Baker, Flor. Maur. Seych., p. 508. Coralline limestone, 10 feet above sea-level, 18th August 1888. Native.

REPORT ON THE FLORA OF LES BENITIERS, MAURITIUS. By Surgeon-Major H. H. JOHNSTON, Army Medical Staff, D.Sc., F.L.S.

Les Bénitiers are two small rocky islets, situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Ile du Morne, near the south-west corner of Mauritius. The two islets lie north and south of each other, at a distance of about 200 yards apart. Between them and Ile du Morne the sea is only $\frac{1}{2}$ fathom deep, and the bottom is formed of coral sand. The outer margin of the shallow coral reef, on which Les Bénitiers are situated, lies about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile farther out to the west of the islets.

The north islet is the larger of the two. It is 11 yards long and 8 yards broad. It rises to a height of 14 feet above the sandy sea-bottom and 11 feet above sea-level. The edge of the islet is undermined by the sea. The south islet is 6 yards across at the broadest part, and it rises 10 feet above the sandy sea-bottom, and 7 feet above sea-level.

Both islets are formed of solid blocks of coralline limestone, which rise abruptly out of the sea. The surface of the rock projects upwards in sharp honeycombed pinnacles,