

Conspicuous among orders absent from the African region are the Cupuliferæ*, the characteristic order of trees of the northern region, and hardly less so of the mountains of tropical Asia (extending southward to New Guinea, though not south of the Ganges in Western India), and of the mountains of Mexico and Central America, extending nearly to the equator (*Quercus*), reappearing both in the American and Australasian regions in the extreme south (*Fagus*). Other notable orders or tribes unrepresented in the African region are:—Magnoliaceæ, Acerineæ (Maples), Pomaceæ, Hydrangeæ, Cornaceæ, Caprifoliaceæ, Vacciniaceæ, Rhododendraceæ (*Rhododendron*), and Abietineæ. There is also a very much smaller development of such essentially tropical orders as the Myrtaceæ, Aroideæ, and Palmæ than in either the Indian or the South-American region. On the other hand, the northern genus *Erica*, which covers thousands of square miles in Europe with very few species, is represented by hundreds of species in a comparatively small area in South Africa. Such anomalies occur in nearly all Floras: take the genera *Ranunculus*, *Epilobium*, and *Veronica* in New Zealand, for instance, where combined they constitute eight or nine per cent. of the flowering plants.

The Indian Region.

This, it is assumed, should include the whole of Wallace's "Oriental" zoological region and those portions of his Australasian region indicated in a previous paragraph (p. xxxvii), and Western Polynesia. Indeed the whole of Polynesia, except the Sandwich Islands, might be included. It is not intended to discuss the subdivision of this region, as the collection and examination of the data would involve great labour. New Guinea and some of the adjacent islands to the west, and those eastward to the Fiji group, constitute a distinct subprovince. Whether the remainder of the Malayan Archipelago should, with the Malayan Peninsula and Cochin China, all be included in one subprovince is not quite so certain. Some parts are exceedingly rich in endemic species and proportionately in genera, while others, the Philippines for example, are remarkably poor in endemic generic types, for only six genera in upwards of 1000 are endemic. It is here, too, that the highest proportion exists of monocotyledons to dicotyledons in any Flora of considerable extent of which there are available statistics, it being as 1 to 1.57†. Further materials will probably modify these figures, though not perhaps to any great extent.

Miquel records some statistics‡ of the Flora of the Malayan Archipelago, but as he took a much more restricted view of genera and species, especially of the latter, than the other authorities cited, they will only serve for approximate comparisons. The twelve natural orders most numerous in species are:—1, Leguminosæ, 676; 2, Orchideæ, 616;

* Even in the wide sense of Bentham and Hooker, for although the European *Alnus glutinosa* is now widely spread in South Africa, it is perhaps beyond doubt that it was introduced by man.

† R. A. Rolfe in Journ. Linn. Soc. xxi. p. 292.

‡ 'Flora Indiæ Batavæ,' iii. p. 768.