

New Zealand. (After Engler *.)

	Orders.	Genera.	Species.
Dicotyledones	74	207	697
Monocotyledones	12	94	241
Gymnospermeæ	1	5	17
	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 306	<hr/> 955

The smallness of the numbers of genera and species strikes one most, especially on comparison with those for the whole of Australia or with those of other areas. That this is not altogether attributable to insularity is clear from the richness of the Flora of New Caledonia, computed at 3000 species of phanerogams †. Japan, of similar extent, and lying in about the same latitudinal position in the north that New Zealand occupies in the south, shelters nearly a hundred more genera of flowering plants than there are species in New Zealand, and about three times as many species.

Flora of the Sandwich Islands.

Wallace treats this as a subregion of his Australian region; Drude regards it as a part of his Indian region; while Engler makes it a province of his 'Palæotropical Floral Kingdom.' Considering the complexity of the affinities of the flora and its extent, and the fact that no element largely predominates over the others, it seems desirable to leave it unattached, without, however, giving it the rank of a primary region. Could Engler's 'Ancient Oceanic Floral Kingdom' (which includes the Antarctic forest region of South America, the Southern Island of New Zealand and outlying islets, extratropical Australia, the Cape, Kerguelen, Amsterdam, Tristan da Cunha, St. Helena, and Ascension Islands) be regarded as a satisfactory solution of a difficult problem, the Sandwich Islands should be referred to this rather than to the Indian region; but the basis of such an arrangement is altogether too hypothetical from our standpoint, and it brings together the most diverse Floras. As Hillebrand remarks ‡, the Sandwich Islands are the only Polynesian group which contain a large number of indigenous plants of American affinities. In a previous paragraph (p. xxxix) examples are given of the more striking genera or species of the different elements of this highly interesting Flora; and Engler's tabular view of the Flora and its affinities affords much fuller information § on this point. Engler's enumeration contains 669 species of vascular plants, of which he estimates 500, or 74·6 per cent., to be endemic. The recently published 'Flora,' cited below, of the late Dr. W. Hillebrand, who spent twenty years in the islands, has increased this number by nearly 200 species, nearly all of them endemic. His summary is here reproduced.

* Versuch, &c. ii. p. 84.

† Brongniart, in Ann. Sc. Nat. 5^{me} série, 1865, p. 187.

‡ Flora of the Hawaiian Islands, Introduction, p. xxix.

§ Versuch, ii. pp. 104-131.