

is the greatest generic concentration of the order; for California possesses only eleven species, belonging to four genera, one of them an endemic monotype.

Phytolaccaceæ.

This small, though widely spread and somewhat heterogeneous order is represented by eight out of twenty genera and ten species. These include the new monotype *Phaulothamnus* recently discovered in North Mexico. Excluding *Phytolacca* itself, the genera are peculiar to America and five of them are monotypes. *Agdestis*, one of them, is Texano-Mexican, and *Stegnosperma* is found in Sonora, Lower California, Guatemala, Cuba, and San Domingo.

Polygonaceæ.

Excluding the Eupolygoneæ and the Rumiceæ, which are abundantly represented by the widely-spread genera *Polygonum* and *Rumex*, this order is essentially American. Indeed all the genera of the tribes Eriogoneæ, Kœnigieæ, Coccolobeæ, and Triplarideæ are American, and fifteen out of nineteen are peculiar to America. The exceptions are one species of *Kœnigia* in the arctic regions and one in the Himalaya; the genus *Muehlenbeckia* in Australasia and Polynesia, one species of *Brunnichia* in west tropical Africa, and one imperfectly known species of *Symmeria* in Senegambia. The Eriogoneæ are almost wholly western, chiefly Californian, with a few Chilian species of the same genera. *Eriogonum* itself comprises about 100 species, all North American; two of them are found east of the Mississippi river; both inhabit Florida and one extends to South Carolina. Upwards of fifty are peculiar to California; and of the nineteen found in Mexico fifteen are merely southward extensions of species more abundant north of Mexico. Only one, *E. undulatum*, has been discovered in South Mexico; and it is probably rare, for we have seen only one imperfect specimen, collected by Galeotti at Real del Monte at an elevation of 8000 feet. The Californian and Chilian genus *Chorizanthe* is represented by one species on the Gila, though perhaps not within our limits. Besides the genera mentioned there are six others of this affinity in California, two of which reappear in Chili. Passing to the Coccolobeæ we have the showy endemic genus *Antigonon*, *Campderia* (which is also Brazilian), a few species of the large tropical-American genus *Coccoloba*, and two species of *Muehlenbeckia*. In Triplarideæ we have the endemic monotypic *Podopterus*, and two species each of *Triplaris* and *Ruprechtia*; both more numerous in species in South America and the former represented in the West Indies.

Piperaceæ.

Both *Piper* and *Peperomia*, generally diffused tropical genera, are numerous in Mexico and Central America, yet we suspect that the two hundred or more species described are susceptible of very considerable reduction. *Houttuynia*, the only other