

genus, is common to Mexico and Texas westward to California, the Himalayas, China, and Japan.

Laurineæ.

Only thirty-six species, several of them imperfectly known, are recorded from within our limits; and Grisebach describes only twenty-six in his 'Flora of the British West-Indian Islands,' whereas the number in Brazil is about 320. In all probability, however, further explorations in Central America will yield a considerable addition to this order. *Litsea glaucescens*, a very variable species, is perhaps the commonest in the Mexican region, where it rises to an altitude of 8000 feet. *Umbellularia californica* is the only member of the order inhabiting western North America; and in the Atlantic States there are seven species belonging to five genera.

Euphorbiaceæ.

This order is seventh in numerical strength of species within our limits, and sixth in the whole world. Our 368 species, of which 240 are endemic, are largely made up by the widely-spread genera *Euphorbia*, *Jatropha*, *Croton*, and *Acalypha*; these four contributing no fewer than 246. Altogether we have thirty-two genera, two of them endemic, and sixteen extending beyond America. *Pseudocroton* is an endemic monotypic genus in Nicaragua, and *Dalembertia* is a small genus restricted to Mexico. The genus *Euphorbia* presents a great variety, from the gorgeous *E. pulcherrima* down to minute annual herbs.

Cupuliferæ.

Taken in the broad sense, that is to include the Betuleæ and the Coryleæ, this order comprises ten genera and about 400 species, generally dispersed in the northern hemisphere, and extending to the mountains of tropical Asia and America. One genus only, *Fagus*, reappears in the extratropical regions of South America, Australia, and New Zealand, where it constitutes an important element of the forests. The genera represented within the limits of this work are *Alnus*, *Carpinus*, *Ostrya*, and *Quercus*; yet, with the exception of the monotypic *Ostryopsis* of Eastern Asia, all the genera are found in North America, where the aggregate of the species is higher than it is either in Europe or Central Asia. *Betula*, *Alnus*, *Carpinus*, *Ostrya*, *Corylus*, *Quercus*, *Castanea*, and *Fagus* occur in the South-eastern States of North America; and *Betula*, *Alnus*, *Corylus*, *Quercus*, and *Castanopsis* in California. The absence of *Fagus* in California and Mexico is noteworthy, especially as the genus is common in the forests of Chili, commencing in about 33° S. lat. *Quercus* and *Alnus* extend to the Andes; the former numbering three South-American species and having its eastern limit at Pamplona and its southern limit about Popayan; the latter one variable species, which is very common in the mountains from South Mexico to Chiriqui, Colombia, Peru,