

In Southern Mexico, in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, according to Barrosa*, *Quercus virens* begins at about 100 metres above the level of the sea, and in the central part associated with a pine it covers large areas.

We have eighteen species of *Quercus* recorded from Guatemala, where, as in Mexico, oak-forests constitute one of the most important elements of the vegetation. Thus in the western mountains (Volcan de Fuego) the chief forest above the tropical zone consists of evergreen oaks succeeded by pines†.

Although we have only one species of *Quercus* noted as Nicaraguan, there is ample evidence of the existence of oak-forests in various parts of Nicaragua‡, and the genus is probably not less strongly represented than it is in Costa Rica, where some ten species are known to exist, nine of which are also natives of either Mexico or Guatemala, or both. Finally, Seemann collected three species on the Volcan de Chiriqui. Two of these have been described as species not found elsewhere, while the third has been identified with one also recorded from Guatemala. The region of oaks, alder, and *Agave americana* in Chiriqui is fixed by Moritz Wagner§ at from 4200 feet to 8000 feet; and here as in Mexico the oaks are associated with palms (*Chamædorea*) up to an altitude of 7000 feet.

Much more might be said concerning the distribution of the oaks of Mexico and Central America, but it must suffice to repeat the important facts of their almost total absence from the West Indies, their great rarity in the Andes, where they do not extend southward to the equator, and the richness and abundance of endemic forms within our limits.

Lacistemaceæ.

Lacistema is a genus of shrubby and arboreous plants restricted to the New World, and so distinct in character that it cannot well be treated otherwise than as an independent natural order, the position of which in a linear arrangement is not easily settled. There are about sixteen species spread all over tropical America including the West Indies, but chiefly in Brazil and Guiana. Only one species (*L. myricoides*, Sw.) has been found in Mexico and Central America; this is spread throughout the West Indies, and covers nearly the whole area of the order in South America. Furthermore it is the only species known to grow in the West Indies.

The Coniferous Vegetation.

Five out of six of the tribes of Coniferæ adopted in Bentham and Hooker's 'Genera

* "Apuntes sobre la Vegetacion del Istmo de Tehuantepec," Anales del Ministerio del Fomento de la República Mexicana, iii. (1880) pp. 309-330.

† O. Salvin, "Der Volcan de Fuego in Guatemala," Petermann's Geographische Mittheilungen, 1861, p. 395.

‡ Pim and Seemann, 'Dottings in Panama and Nicaragua,' passim.

§ Petermann's 'Geographische Mittheilungen,' 1863, p. 294. *Agave americana* should probably be *Furcraea gigantea*.