

A few words concerning the palms in other parts of America:—The south-eastern States of North America are inhabited by three species of *Sabal*, by the monotypic *Rhapidophyllum*; and comparatively recently three species of *Thrinax* and *Oreodoxa regia* have been found in South Florida. The northern limit of the palmettos (*Sabal*) is North Carolina, and an apparently endemic species of *Sabal* is abundant in the Bermudas. The palms of western North America are *Washingtonia filifera*, a monotype, in Southern California and Western Arizona, and two species of the genus *Erythea*, also peculiar to the region—one inhabiting Guadalupe Island and the other the Tantillas Mountains, Lower California. About forty palms are known to grow in the West Indies*—the genera *Thrinax*, *Bactris*, and *Sabal* being especially numerous. A not inconsiderable number of them are peculiar to Trinidad. Thus, one each of *Mauritia*, *Hyospathe*, *Jessenia*, *Geonoma*, *Manicaria*, and *Astrocaryum*, and four of *Bactris*, proving a connection with Guiana which does not extend to the other islands. The palms of Brazil number 251 species, belonging to thirty-five genera, only two of which are actually endemic. Drude, the monographer of the order, divides Martius's region Naiades, or what, in this work, has been designated the Amazon region, into four districts, namely: a littoral district, in which there are 79 species; a central with 99, a north-western with 110, and south-western with 32 species. In the whole region there are probably not less than 200 species; and thirty-three out of the thirty-five genera occur in this region. Of course these figures mean much more in an order like the Palmæ than in such an order as the Compositæ for example; and the number of species of palms within our limits is no guide to the relative proportion in the composition of the vegetation on account of the smallness of most of the Mexican species. The characteristic Mexican *Chamædorea* is represented in Brazil by two species.

Cyclanthaceæ.

Four genera and about thirty-five species of this peculiarly American order are recorded; but, like Palms, they have been little collected, and much, doubtless, remains to be done before we shall get an approximate idea of the numbers actually existing. They appear to be generally spread in eastern tropical America and the West Indies; and two or three are found in Venezuela, Guiana, and Peru. The number within the southern part of our area is probably greater than that enumerated by us, including those species contained in the Supplement. In floral structure the Cyclanthaceæ are very near the Aroideæ and the Old-World Pandaneæ, from which, however, they are readily distinguished by their habit and foliage.

Aroideæ.

The Aroideæ are generally diffused, except in the coldest regions, attaining their maximum development, however, in the tropics, and by far most numerous in tropical

* Drude, Peterm. Mitth. 1878, p. 99.