

Areca Palms, as can be made out on a nearer view. The general dark-green mass of vegetation on the hill-sides is festooned with creepers, and the smaller outlying islands, dotted about in front of the main island, are all thickly wooded. Those which are inhabited are distinguished at once by the large number of cocoanut trees growing upon them and forming the main feature of their vegetation.

I landed twice upon the main land. The trees where the shore is not swampy overhang the sea with immense horizontal branches. The bases of many of the trunks of these trees are constantly washed by the waves; but they nevertheless have large woody Fungi growing upon them, sometimes attached so low down that they are frequently immersed in salt water. The overhanging branches are loaded with a thick growth of epiphytes; and I had to wade up to my middle in the sea in order to collect specimens of orchids and ferns which hung often only a couple of feet above the water.

In other places the shore is swampy, and is either covered with Mangroves, or with a dense growth of high trees with tall straight trunks, so closely set that it was very sensibly dark beneath them. In such a grove near Pigeon Island, a small outlier near the anchorage, the ground beneath is bare and muddy, and beset with the bare roots of the trees, whilst the trunks of the trees and fallen logs are covered with a most luxuriant growth of feathery mosses and Jungermannias.

On one of these tree trunks I found a very curious and rare Fern, known before only from Samoa and New Caledonia (*Trichomanes peltatum*). The fronds of the fern are circular in form, are connected by a slender rhizome and adhere in rows to the bark. They are pressed absolutely flat against the bark, so as to look like an adherent crust, and have all the appearance of a *Riccia* or some such Liverwort, for which indeed I took them, as I gathered specimens by shaving off the bark. A species of Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum pendulum*), unlike our humble little English form, grows in abundance, attached to tree stems with long pendulous fronds as much as a yard in length.

Most of my time during our stay was consumed in the collection of plants, since the Botany of the Admiralty Group was entirely unknown. Several of the ferns when examined at Kew, proved, as was to be expected in such a locality, of new species. Amongst the plants was a new Tree-fern; and one Orchid formed a new section of the genus *Dendrobium*.

All my spare time was devoted to studying the habits and language of the natives. I several times visited Wild Island, and roamed about with a native guide. The guides always