

DISTINCT CONTINENTAL GENERA OF VERY RESTRICTED AREAS.

There are probably scores, or even hundreds, of monotypic continental genera confined to very small areas; perhaps not very many to such small areas as St Helena or Juan Fernandez, or the islands of the Sandwich, Galapagos, or Seychelles groups; but, nevertheless, many very distinct genera have hitherto only been met with in one locality or district, especially continental genera of the southern hemisphere. Of course we cannot assume that they do not exist in more than one district because they have hitherto not been found elsewhere. De Candolle (*Géographie Botanique*, p. 1141), in giving examples of genera of very wide and very limited areas, cites insular genera only of the latter category. In the absence of more exact information we can give examples of a few genera which appear to be comparatively local. Whether, like the eastern Asiatic *Ginkgo* (*Salisburia*), and the North American *Sequoia*, they are survivors of types having a much wider distribution during the tertiary period, is a question that we can only suggest. *Darlingtonia* and *Heliamphora* (Sarraceniaceæ, cited on p. 36 as an example of an order of discontinuous area) are instances of highly differentiated monotypic genera of a very curious order, apparently of comparatively local existence, though the former ranges from the Truckee Pass to the borders of Oregon. It is singular, too, that some other of the so-called carnivorous genera of plants are very local. Thus, *Dionæa* is confined to North Carolina and the adjacent parts of South Carolina. The Hamamelideæ, also a very remarkable order, comprise a number of monotypic genera, several of which are at present only known from single localities or narrowly limited districts; and none of them, except *Liquidambar*, has anything approaching a wide range. This genus now occupies several widely separated areas in North America, Asia Minor, and the extreme Eastern Asia; but during the tertiary epoch it inhabited the intervening country. The Begoniaceæ consist of the very large genus *Begonia*, which is widely spread in warm countries of both hemispheres, and one very small very distinct genus, *Begoniella*, which inhabits the Andes, and the monotypic *Hillebrandia*, a native of the Sandwich Islands. *Columellia*, mentioned at p. 36, has a restricted range in the Andes; *Gosela* (Selagineæ) is a monotypic South African genus of apparently very restricted area; *Atkinsonia* (Loranthaceæ) is only known from the Blue Mountains in New South Wales; and *Saprium* (Cytinaceæ) has only been gathered in one place in Eastern Bengal. The number of monotypic genera of Orchideæ, known from only one locality, is considerable, but it is hardly worth while giving a list of names. *Lapiedra* and *Tapeinanthus* (Amaryllideæ) are instances of European local genera, the former being found only in Southern Spain, and the latter in Southern Spain and Tangiers. Finally, the distribution of the Burmanniaceæ is interesting in this connection. *Burmannia* itself is spread nearly all over the tropics, and *Gymnosiphon* is represented in America, Africa, and the Malayan Archipelago; while several others which exhibit some marvellous deviations