

*Gratiola pedunculata*, *R. Br.* A strong scented swamp plant. In flower.

*Phytolacca octandra*, *Linn.* The Ink-berry plant. In flower and fruit.

*Muehlenbeckia gracillima*, *Meissn.* In flower.

*Aristolochia pubera*, *R. Br.* In flower and fruit.

*Cryptocarya australis*, *Benth.* The bark of this tree has of late years been found by Dr. T. L. Bancroft to possess highly poisonous properties.

*Pimelea linifolia*, *Sm.* In flower.

*Ficus aspera*, *Frost.* Black Fig with young fruit

*Macrozamia spiralis*, *Miq.* In very young fruit.

*Sarcophilus olivaceus*, *Lindley.* In flower.

*Dioscorea transversa*, *R. Br.* Native Yam. In fruit.

*Xerotes longifolia*, *R. Br.* In flower.

*Juncus pauciflorus*, *R. Br.* In flower.

*Paspalum minutiflorum*, *Stens.* In flower.

*Sporobolus indicus*, *R. Br.* In flower.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE QUEENSLAND FORM OF NIPA FRUTICANS.

BY F. M. BAILEY, F.L.S.

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As it may be well to give an account of the first discovery of the plant in Queensland, I may mention that my attention was drawn about the end of 1880 to some very long palm-like leaves which had been received by Mr. L. A. Bernays from Mr. A. Neame of Macknade. I ultimately wrote to Mr. Neame asking him to send me down some further specimens by which the plant could be determined. This he kindly did, and from these specimens I found the plant to be a *Nipa* and in my opinion to differ sufficiently from the only known species *N. fruticans* to bear the discoverer's name, if not as a fresh species, as a marked form of the already



known species. Within the last few days Mr. Neame has sent me a fine head of drupes—a few of which are laid upon the table this evening. When intact this head measured about 16 inches in diameter. Mr. Neame writes that the Herbert River natives make use of the seeds when in an unripe state for food, as is done in other countries where the Nipa is indigenous.

The following is a brief diagnosis of the plant which I drew up when it was first sent me by Mr. Neame in 1881:—

*Nipa fruticans*, var. *Neameana*.

Stem short, thick, from a stout creeping rhizome, which is much flattened and about 1 foot broad, with a thickness of about 6 inches, rooting from the under surface only, the upper surface quite smooth. Leaves averaging about 6 or 7 to a plant, 4 usually living, and 2 or 3 decaying, pinnate, 25 feet to 30 feet long, the base very stout and clasping the very short erect stem. Pinnæ approximate, of from 50 to 60 pairs, 2 feet to 4 feet long, 2 inches to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, plicate, the midrib sharply angled beneath, the upper side bearing lanceolate dark brown centrally attached scales two prominent ribs on each side of the midrib, and rib-like margins, the midrib confluent with the lower margin below the apex, forming an angular point of several inches in length. Peduncle 3 feet or 4 feet high, bearing 3 large and many small sheathing bracts; the lowest larger one very obtuse, having a strap-like appearance from the rather broad wings formed on either side, other bracts all pointed and much smaller, and one or two-keeled; panicle of 5 branches, the lower lateral ones male, each much divided, the divisions ending in male catkins 1 or 2 inches long, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, digitaliform, the terminal branch bearing a spherical head of from 1 foot to 16 inches in diameter, composed of more or less angular fibrous drupes, each about 6 inches long by 3 inches broad, when ripe of a chestnut-brown and more or less glossy, each containing one round seed, which although it may be eaten in an unripe state, becomes very hard and ivory-like when old.

*Hab.* Herbert River. Arthur Neame, 1880.

This genus has been placed by some botanists in *Pandaneæ* by others in *Palmæ*. In the Synopsis of the Queensland Flora it



will be found in the former, but since that work was printed the third volume of Bentham and Hooker's *Genera Plantarum* has been published and there we find it in the latter order.

The plant is met with in the coast swamps of India, China, the Philippine Island, New Guinea and other countries, and its various parts are made to serve many useful purposes by the inhabitants. In the Philippines the juice is converted into sugar, **an analysis of the juice is given at page 568 of the Synopsis of the Queensland Flora.**

## BOTANICAL NOTE.

By F. M. BAILEY, F.L.S.

THE plant described as *Acacia melaleucoides*, *Bail.* is synonymous with *Albizzia Sutherlandi*, *F. v. M.*, and is figured in Decade XII of the Australian *Acacias*, as *A. Sutherlandi*, *F. v. M.*

## BRYOLOGICAL NOTES.

By C. J. WILD, Esq.

THE following Plants, collected by the Author, are additions to the Queensland Flora :—

### *Symblepharis perichæticalis*, Wils.

Habk. Fl. N.Z. p. 405, (*Symblepharis*). Stem erect, branched,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch high. Leaves crowded, erecto-patent, crisped when dry, lanceolate below, narrowed to a long subulate point, quite entire, channelled; nerve continuous; margin flat; perichætical very long, sheathing; fruitstalk  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 inch long, pale; annulus small, persistent; teeth 32, erect or recurved when moist, dull red, 2-fid at the apex, perforate below; operculum as long as the capsule, almost setaceous; calyptra twice as long; male inflorescence unknown. *Trichostomum*, Hook. Musc. Exot. t. 73; *Olomitrum*, Brid.; *Symblepharis*, Mont.; *Acalyphum cylindricum*, Palisot; *Sprucea*, J. Hook. and Wils. Fl. Antarct. I. 128

*Pimpama*, C. J. Wild.



Bailey, Frederick Manson. 1888. "Description of the Queensland Form of *Nipa fruticans*." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 5(4), 146–148.  
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