

used for whatever restores strength, calms the irritation of the nerves, or causes a feeling of comfort. We ourselves experienced the salutary effects of the bath. Having slung our hammocks on the trees round the basin, we passed a whole day in this charming spot, which abounds in plants. We found near the *baño* of Mariara the *volador*, or *gyrocarpus*. The winged fruits of this large tree turn like a fly-wheel, when they fall from the stalk. On shaking the branches of the *volador*, we saw the air filled with its fruits, the simultaneous fall of which presents the most singular spectacle. The two membranaceous and striated wings are turned so as to meet the air, in falling, at an angle of  $45^{\circ}$ . Fortunately the fruits we gathered were at their maturity. We sent some to Europe, and they have germinated in the gardens of Berlin, Paris, and Malmaison. The numerous plants of the *volador*, now seen in hot-houses, owe their origin to the only tree of the kind found near Mariara. The geographical distribution of the different species of *gyrocarpus*, which Mr. Brown considers as one of the *laurineæ*, is very singular. Jacquin saw one species near Carthage in America.\* This is the same which we met with again in Mexico, near Zumpango, on the road from Acapulco to the capital.† Another species, which grows on the mountains of Coromandel,‡ has been described by Roxburgh; the third and fourth§ grow in the southern hemisphere, on the coasts of Australia.

After getting out of the bath, while, half-wrapped in a sheet, we were drying ourselves in the sun, according to the custom of the country, a little man of the mulatto race approached us. After bowing gravely, he made us a long speech on the virtues of the waters of Mariara, adverting to the numbers of invalids by whom they have been visited for some years past, and to the favourable situation of the springs, between the two towns Valencia and Caracas. He

\* The *Gyrocarpus Jacquini* of Gärtner, or *Gyrocarpus americanus* of Willdenow.

† The natives of Mexico called it *quiltacoctli*. I saw some of its young leaves with three and five lobes; the full-grown leaves are in the form of a heart, and always with three lobes. We never met with the *volador* in flower.

‡ This is the *Gyrocarpus asiaticus* of Willdenow.

§ *Gyrocarpus sphenopterus*, and *G. rugosus*.