

but considerably hotter than that of the Guainia or Rio Negro. The centigrade thermometer kept up in the day to twenty-six or twenty-seven degrees; and in the night to twenty-one degrees.

From the 30th of April to the 11th of May, I had not been able to see any star in the meridian so as to determine the latitude of places. I watched whole nights in order to make use of the method of double altitudes; but all my efforts were useless. The fogs of the north of Europe are not more constant than those of the equatorial regions of Guiana. On the 4th of May, I saw the sun for some minutes; and found by the chronometer and the horary angles the longitude of Javita to be $70^{\circ} 22'$, or $1^{\circ} 15'$ farther west than the longitude of the junction of the Apure with the Orinoco. This result is interesting for laying down on our maps the unknown country lying between the Xiè and the sources of the Issana, situated on the same meridian with the mission of Javita.

The Indians of Javita, whose number amounts to one hundred and sixty, now belong for the most part to the nations of the Poimisanos, the Echinavis, and the Paraganis. They are employed in the construction of boats, formed of the trunks of sassafras, a large species of laurel, hollowed by means of fire and the hatchet. These trees are more than one hundred feet high; the wood is yellow, resinous, almost incorruptible in water, and has a very agreeable smell. We saw them at San Fernando, at Javita, and more particularly at Esmeralda, where most of the canoes of the Orinoco are constructed, because the adjacent forests furnish the largest trunks of sassafras.

The forest between Javita and the Caño Pimichin, contains an immense quantity of gigantic trees, ocoteas, and laurels, the *Amasonia arborea*,* the *Retiniphyllum secundiflorum*, the *curvana*, the *jacio*, the *iacifate*, of which the wood is red like the *brazillette*, the *guamufate*, with its fine leaves of

* This is a new species of the genus *taligalea* of Aublet. On the same spot grow the *Bignonia magnoliæfolia*, *B. jasminifolia*, *Solanum topiro*, *Justicia pectoralis*, *Faramea cymosa*, *Piper javitense*, *Scleria hirtella*, *Echites javitensis*, *Lindsea javitensis*, and that curious plant of the family of the *verbenaceæ*, which I have dedicated to the illustrious Leopold von Buch, in whose early labours I participated.