

Meta. Here, as throughout America, the Indians eat little meat, and consume scarcely any salt. The *chivi* of Javita is a mixture of muriate of potash and of soda, of caustic lime, and of several other earthy salts. The Indians dissolve a few particles in water, fill with this solution a leaf of heliconia folded in a conical form, and let drop a little, as from the extremity of a filter, on their food.

On the 5th of May we set off, to follow on foot our canoe, which had at length arrived, by the portage, at the Caño Pimichin. We had to ford a great number of streams; and these passages require some caution on account of the vipers with which the marshes abound. The Indians pointed out to us on the moist clay the traces of the little black bears so common on the banks of the Temi. They differ at least in size from the *Ursus americanus*. The missionaries call them *osso carnicero*, to distinguish them from the *osso palmero* or tamanoir (*Myrmecophaga jubata*), and from the *osso hormigero*, or anteater (*tamandua*). The flesh of these animals is good to eat; the first two defend themselves by rising on their hind feet. The tamanoir of Buffon is called *uaraca* by the Indians; it is irascible and courageous, which is extraordinary in an animal without teeth. We found, as we advanced, some vistas in the forest, which appeared to us the richer, as it became more accessible. We here gathered some new species of coffee (the American tribe, with flowers in panicles, forms probably a particular genus); the *Galega piscatorum*, of which the Indians make use, as they do of jacquinia, and of a composite plant of the Rio Temi, as a kind of *barbasco*, to intoxicate fish; and finally, the liana, known in those countries by the name of *vejuco de mavacure*, which yields the famous curare poison. It is neither a *phyllanthus*, nor a *coriaria*, as M. Willdenow conjectured, but, as M. Kunth's researches show, very probably a *strychnos*. We shall have occasion, farther on, to speak of this venomous substance, which is an important object of trade among the savages.

The trees of the forest of Pimichin have the gigantic height of from eighty to a hundred and twenty feet. In these burning climates the *laurineæ* and *amyris*\* furnish

\* The great white and red cedars of these countries are not the *Cedrela odorata*, but the *Amyris altissima*, which is an *icica* of Aublet.