

nearly the same; but there is no proof that the different poisons sold by the same name at the Orinoco and the Amazon are identical, and derived from the same plants. Orfila, therefore, in his excellent work *On Poisons*, has very judiciously separated the *wourali* of Dutch Guiana, the *curare* of the Orinoco, the *ticuna* of the Amazon, and all those substances which have been too vaguely united under the name of 'American poisons.' Possibly at some future day, one and the same alkaline principle, similar to morphine and strychnia, will be found in poisonous plants belonging to different genera.

At the Orinoco the *curare de raiz* (of the root) is distinguished from the *curare de bejuco* (of lianas, or of the bark of branches). We saw only the latter prepared; the former is weaker, and much less esteemed. At the river Amazon we learned to distinguish the poisons of the Ticuna, Yagua, Peva, and Xibaro Indians, which being all obtained from the same plant, perhaps differ only by a more or less careful preparation. The Ticuna poison, to which La Condamine has given so much celebrity in Europe, and which somewhat improperly begins to bear the name of *ticuna*, is extracted from a liana which grows in the island of Mormorote, on the Upper Marañon. This poison is employed partly by the Ticunas, who remain independent on the Spanish territory near the sources of the Yacarique; and partly by Indians of the same tribe, inhabiting the Portuguese mission of Loreto. The poisons we have just named differ totally from that of La Peca, and from the poison of Lamas and of Moyobamba. I enter into these details because the vestiges of plants which we were able to examine, proved to us (contrary to the common opinion) that the three poisons of the Ticunas, of La Peca, and of Moyobamba are not obtained from the same species, probably not even from congeneric plants. In proportion as the preparation of the *curare* is simple, that of the poison of Moyobamba is a long and complicated process. With the juice of the *bejuco de ambihuasca*, which is the principal ingredient, are mixed pimento, tobacco, barbasco (*Jacquinia armillaris*), sanango (*Tabernæ montana*), and the milk of some other apocynæ. The fresh juice of the *ambihuasca* has a deleterious action when in contact with the blood; the juice of the