

pared zones equally distant, either from the perpetual snow, or from the isothermal line of 0° .*

In the little thicket of the Pejual, near the purple-flowered befaria, grows a heath-leaved hedyotis, eight feet high; the caparosa,† which is a large arborescent hypericum; a lepidium, which appears identical with that of Virginia; and lastly, lycopodiaceous plants and mosses, which cover the rocks and roots of the trees. That which gives most celebrity in the country to the little thicket, is a shrub ten or fifteen feet high, of the corymbiferous family. The Creoles call it incense (incienso).‡ Its tough and crenate leaves, as well as the extremities of the branches, are covered with a white wool. It is a new species of *Trixis*, extremely resinous, the flowers of which have the agreeable odour of storax. This smell is very different from that emitted by the leaves of the *Trixis terebinthinacea* of the mountains of Jamaica, opposite to those of Caracas. The people sometimes mix the incienso of the Silla with the flowers of the pevetera, another composite plant, the smell of which resembles that of the heliotropium of Peru. The pevetera does not, however, grow on the mountains so high as the zone of the befarias; it vegetates in the valley of Chacao, and the ladies of Caracas prepare from it an extremely pleasant odoriferous water.

We spent a long time in examining the fine resinous and fragrant plants of the Pejual. The sky became more and more cloudy, and the thermometer sank below 11° , a temperature at which, in this zone, people begin to suffer from the cold. Quitting the little thicket of alpine plants, we found ourselves again in a savannah. We climbed over a part of the western dome, in order to descend into the hollow of the Silla, a valley which separates the two summits of the

* The stratum of air, the mean temperature of which is 0° , and which scarcely coincides with the superior limit of perpetual snow, is found in the parallel of the rhododendrons of Switzerland at nine hundred toises; in the parallel of the befarias of Caracas, at two thousand seven hundred toises of elevation.

† *Vismia caparosa* (a loranthus clings to this plant, and appropriates to itself the yellow juice of the vismia); *Davallia meifolia*, *Heracium avilæ*, *Aralia arborea*, Jacq., and *Lepidium virginicum*. Two new species of lycopodium, the *thyoides*, and the *aristatum*, are seen lower down near the Puerta de la Silla.

‡ *Trixis nereifolia* of M. Bonpland.