

than the banks. On a layer of sand and land shells, five to six inches thick, covered by a fragmentary madreporic rock, rises a forest of mangroves (*Rhizophora*). From their form and foliage, they might at a distance be mistaken for laurel trees. The *Avicennia*, the *Batis*, some small *Euphorbia*, and grasses, by the intertwining of their roots, fix the moving sands. But the characteristic distinction of the Flora of these coral islands, is the magnificent *Tournefortia gnaphalioides* of Jacquin, with silvered leaves, which we found here for the first time. This is a social plant, and is a shrub from four feet and a half to five feet high. Its flowers emit an agreeable perfume; and it is the ornament of Cayo Flamenco, Cayo Piedras, and perhaps of the greater part of the low lands of the Jardinillos. While we were employed in herborizing, our sailors were searching among the rocks for lobsters. Disappointed at not finding them, they avenged themselves by climbing on the mangroves and making a dreadful slaughter of the young alcatras, grouped in pairs in their nests. This name is given, in Spanish America, to the brown swan-tailed pelican of Buffon. With the want of foresight peculiar to the great pelagic birds, the alcatra builds his nest where several branches of trees unite together. We counted four or five nests on the same trunk of a mangrove. The young birds defended themselves valiantly with their enormous beaks, which are six or seven inches long; the old ones hovered over our heads, making hoarse and plaintive cries. Blood streamed from the tops of the trees, for the sailors were armed with great sticks and cutlasses (machetes). In vain we reproved them for this cruelty. Condemned to long obedience in the solitude of the seas, this class of men feel pleasure in exercising a cruel tyranny over animals, when occasion

* We gathered *Cenchrus myosuroides*, *Euphorbia buxifolia*, *Batis maritima*, *Iresine obtusifolia*, *Tournefortia gnaphalioides*, *Diomedea glabrata*, *Cakile cubensis*, *Dolichos miniatus*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, &c. The last-named plant, which we had previously found in the valley of Caracas and on the temperate table-lands of Mexico, between 470 and 900 toises high, covers the fields of the island of Cuba. It is used by the inhabitants for aromatic baths, and to drive away the fleas which are so numerous in tropical climates. At Cumana, the leaves of several species of cassia are employed, on account of their smell, against those annoying insects.