

formed heretofore our species *Alfonsia*, yielding oil in abundance; the *Cocos butyracea*, called here *palma dulce* or *palma real*, and very different from the *palma real* of the island of Cuba; the *palma amarga*, with fan-leaves that serve to cover the roofs of houses, and the *latta*,* resembling the small *piritu* palm-tree of the Orinoco. This variety of palm-trees was remarked by the first Conquistadores.† The *Alfonsia*, or rather the species of *Elais*, which we had nowhere else seen, is only six feet high, with a very large trunk; and the fecundity of its spathes is such that they contain more than 200,000 flowers. Although a great number of those flowers (one tree bearing 600,000 at the same time) never come to maturity,‡ the soil remains covered with a thick layer of fruits. We often made a similar observation under the shade of the *mauritia* palm-tree, the *Cocos butyracea*, the *Seje*, and the *Pihiguao* of the *Atabapo*. No other family of arborescent plants is so prolific in the development of the organs of flowering. The almond of the *Corozo del Sinu* is peeled in the water. The thick layer of oil that swims in the water is purified by boiling, and yields the butter of *Corozo* (*manteca de Corozo*), which is thicker than the oil of the cocoa-tree, and serves to light churches and houses. The palm-trees of the section of *Cocoinies* of Mr. Brown, are the olive-trees of the tropical regions. As

thick, glossy trunk, is the *Elæis melanococca* of Martius (*Palm.*, p. 64, tab. xxxiii., lv.). I cannot believe it to be identical with the *Elæis guineensis* (*Herbal of Congo River*, p. 37) since it vegetates spontaneously in the forests of the *Rio Sinu*. The *Corozo of Caripe* is slender, small, and covered with thorns; it approaches the *Cocos aculeata* of Jacquin. The *Corozo de los Marinos* of the valley of Cauca, one of the tallest palm-trees, is the *Cocus butyracea* of Linnæus.

* Perhaps of the species of *Aiphanes*.

† Pedro de Cieça de Leon, a native of Seville, who travelled in 1531, at the age of thirteen years, in the countries I have described, observes that "Las tierras comarcanas del Rio Cenù y del Golfo de Uraba estan llena de unos palmares muy grandes y espessos, que son unos arboles gruesos, y llevan unas ramas como palma de datiles." [The lands adjacent to the *Rio Cenu* and the Gulf of *Uraba*, are full of very tall, spreading palm-trees. They are of vast size, and are branched like the date-palm.] See *La Cronica del Peru nuevamenta escrita* (*Antwerp*, 1554), pp. 21, 204.

‡ I have carefully counted how many flowers are contained in a square inch on each *amentum*, from 100 to 120 of which are found united in one spathe.