

67° 10'), the high mountains in the basin of the Rio Caura only commence at 7° 20' of latitude, on the south of the mission of San Luis Guaraguaraico, where they occasion the rapids of Mura. This chain stretches westward by the sources of the Rio Cuchivero, the Cerros del Mato, the Cerbatana and Maniapure, as far as Tepupano, a group of strangely-formed granitic rocks surrounding the Encaramada. The culminant points of this chain (lat. 7° 10'—7° 28') are, according to the information I gathered from the Indians, situated near the sources of Caño de la Tortuga. In the chain of the Encaramada there are some traces of gold. This chain is also celebrated in the mythology of the Tamanacs; for the painted rocks it contains are associated with ancient local traditions. The Orinoco changes its direction at the confluence of the Apure, breaking a part of the chain of the Encaramada. The latter mountains and scattered rocks in the plain of the Capuchino, and on the north of Cabruta, may be considered either as the vestiges of a destroyed spur, or (on the hypothesis of the igneous origin of granite) as partial eruptions and upheavings. I shall not here discuss the question, whether the most northerly chain, that of Angostura and of the great fall of Carony, be a continuation of the chain of Encaramada.

3rd. In navigating the Orinoco from north to south, we observe, alternately, on the east, small plains and chains of mountains, of which we cannot distinguish the profiles, that is, the sections perpendicular to their longitudinal axes. From the mission of the Encaramada to the mouth of the Rio Qama, I counted seven recurrences of this alternation of savannahs and high mountains. First, on the south of the isle Cucuruparu rises the chain of Chaviripe (lat. 7° 10'); it stretches, inclining towards the south (lat. 6° 20'—6° 40'), by the Cerros del Corozal, the Amoco, and the Murcielago, as far as the Erevato, a tributary of the Caura. It there forms the rapids of Paru, and is linked with the summits of Matacuna.

4th. The chain of Chaviripe is succeeded by that of the Baraguan (lat. 6° 50'—7° 5'), celebrated for the strait of the Orinoco, to which it gives its name. The Saraguaca, or mountain of Uruana, composed of detached blocks of granite, may be regarded as a northern spur of the chain of the Baraguan, stretching south-west towards