

habits tropical and warm temperate climates in both hemispheres. Only one species occurs in the United States, *Bauhinia lunarioides*, Gray, found by Dr. Bigelow on the Rio Grande.

“*Hymenæa* is another of the leguminosæ, and inhabits tropical America. A species of this genus has been found in the Upper Cretaceous of France, but quite different from the one before us, in which the leaves are much larger, and the leaflets are united in a common petiole, which is winged; this is a modification not found in the living species, and one which brings it nearer to *Bauhinia*.

“But the most surprising discovery yet made is that of a number of quite large helianthoid flowers, which I have called *Palæanthus*. These are three to four inches in diameter, and exhibit a scaly involucre, enclosing what much resembles a fleshy receptacle with achenia. From the border of this radiate a number of ray florets, one to two inches in length, which are persistent and must have been scarious, like those of *Helichrysum*. Though these flowers so much resemble those of the compositæ, we are not yet warranted in asserting that such is certainly their character. In the Jurassic rocks of Europe and India some flowers not very unlike these have been found, which have been named *Williamsonia*, and referred to cycads by Carruthers. A similar fossil has been found in the Cretaceous rocks of Greenland, and named by Heer *Williamsonia cretacea*, but he questions the reference of the genus to the Cycadeæ, and agrees with Nathorst in considering all the species of *Williamsonia* as parasitic flowers, allied to *Brugmansia* or *Rafflesia*. The Marquis of Saporta regards them as monocotyledons, similar to *Pandanus*. More specimens of the flowers now exhibited will perhaps prove—what we can now only regard as probable—that the Compositæ, like the *Leguminosæ*, *Magnoliaceæ*, *Celastraceæ*, and other highly organised plants, formed part