

A nourishing flour is obtained from the tuberous roots of *Tacca pinnatifida*, which grows here plentifully; but it does not appear to be in general use.

The different species of *Arum*, *A. esculentum*, *macrorhizon*, and *sagittifolium*, as well as the *Banana* and the *Rhizophora gymnorhiza*, are severally cultivated, here and there, on the various islands. The culture of the *Banana* seemed to commence at Kaban; but it was only at Aur that we saw it bearing fruit. The species of *Arum* nowhere meet here with the deep boggy soil that best suits them; indeed there is nothing growing spontaneously on these islands which forms an essential part of the food of the population.

Besides these plants, there are commonly cultivated about their dwellings two of the rarest wild species, which are very ornamental; a *Sida* and a *Crinum*, whose sweet-scented flowers, with those of *Guetarda speciosa*, *Follamaria inermis*, and at Aur the *Ixora coccinea* (?) are worn in pretty garlands around the long coiled hair and in the ears of the poor natives of Radack, who are distinguished by their general taste for elegant decorations and great fondness for perfumes.

The sea throws upon the reefs of Radack great trunks of *Fig trees* from more northerly countries, with the *Palms* and *Bamboos* of the torrid zone. It thus supplies the wood necessary for navigation, while the iron found in the wrecks of European vessels affords another requisite article. The only instruments which they possess for working up the drift-wood are formed of the valuable metal thus obtained. In confirmation of the fact that much iron is thus procured, we saw a large piece of timber lying on the strand, with the iron nails still remaining, sticking in it, at a sheltered spot in Oldia, one of this group of islands. From the same source the natives obtain another treasure, a useful kind of very hard stone, which is found in the roots and hollows of trees cast up by the sea. Iron and stone belong to the chieftains, to whom they are compelled to deliver these articles for a trifling remuneration, under pain of punishment.

The sea also wafts to these islands the fruits and seeds of many trees, of which the greater part are not indigenous.