

sonora, *Erythrina indica*, *Cordia*, with rich yellow flowers, *Xylocarpus*, which has a large and very attractive-looking yellow fruit; a species of *Ixora* and a *Volkameria*, both with fragrant blossoms; the mangrove (*tiri* of the natives), which pushes its vegetation even into the salt water, and covers large tracts of coral reefs and muddy creeks, giving a beautiful appearance to the low and swampy ground. The last-named plant seems peculiarly adapted to this situation, and it not only lives and thrives in salt water, but the young plants are found pushing themselves towards the sea, springing from the chinks and cracks of the coral; they are frequently overflowed three or four feet at high water, but they nevertheless contrive to hold their place, and when they gain sufficient height, they again send forth their aerial roots, which descending, soon give the parent stem sufficient support to withstand all the efforts of the surf to displace them.

Our botanists were extremely industrious in collecting in this new and prolific field. The list of the plants gathered amounts to about six hundred and fifty species, and they are of opinion, that many more remain, which, at some future day, it may fall to the lot of other botanists to collect. This, however, cannot happen until the islands shall have become more civilized, and there shall be some safety in wandering into the mountain regions, which is now attended with much danger.

The labours of agriculture, and the phenomena of vegetation, serve as the foundation of their calendar, and furnish names to some of their months, or the portions into which they divide the year. Of these they reckon eleven, viz. :

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| 1. Vulai songa sou tombe sou, or Nuga levu | Reeds blossom. |
| 2. Vulai songa sou seselieb | Build yam-houses. |
| 3. Vulai Matua, or Endoye doye | Yams ripe. |
| 4. Vulai mbota mbota. | |
| 5. Vulai kele kele, or Vulai mayo mayo | Digging yams. |
| 6. Vulai were were | Weeding month. |
| 7. Vulai lou lou | Digging ground and planting. |
| 8. Vulai Kawawaka. | |
| 9. Bololo va va conde. | |
| 10. Bololo lieb. | |
| 11. Numa lieb, or Nuga lai lai. | |

The first of these corresponds nearly to January.

The month of Bololo lieb seems to be the only one that is astronomically determined; and that arrives when the sun is over a particular part of Ambatiki, an island in sight from Ovolau.

The month of June is known and established by the flowering of a vine, that is found on the shore, called tombebe.