

Fossil Fruits of Palms.

Many fossil fruits of the Tertiary period belong to the family of Palms, all of which, according to M. Ad. Brongniart, seem derived from Genera that have pinnated leaves. Several such fruits occur in the Tertiary clay of the Island of Sheppey; among which are the Date,* now peculiar to Africa and India; the Cocoa-nut,† which grows universally within the tropics; the *Bactris*, which is limited to America; and the *Areca*, which is found only in Asia. Not one of these can be referred to any flabelliform palm. Fossil Cocoa-nuts occur also at Brussels, and at Liblar near Cologne, together with fruits of the *Areca*.

Although all these fruits belong to Genera whose leaves are pinnated, no fossil pinnated Palm leaves (as we have just stated), have yet been found in Europe. It seems therefore most likely, from the mode in which so large a number of miscellaneous fruits are crowded together in the Isle of Sheppey, mixed with marine shells and fragments of timber, almost always perforated by *Teredines*, that the fruits in question were drifted by marine currents from a warmer

* See Parkinson's *Org. Rem.* Vol. i. Pl. VI. fig. 4, 9.

† See Parkinson's *Org. Rem.* Vol. i. Pl. VII. fig. 1—5. M. Brongniart says, these fruits are undoubtedly of the Genus *Cocos*, near to *Cocos lapidea*, of Gærtner.