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ART. VI. *Remarks on the Indigenous Vegetable Productions of Tasmania available as Food for Man.*

By RONALD C. GUNN, Esq.

IN the Van Diemen's Land Annual for 1834, edited by Dr. ROSS, appeared an able paper, "On the Roots and other indigenous Esculents of the Colony," from the pen of Mr. James Backhouse, an eminent naturalist. That account met with deserved attention in Europe, from the remarkable circumstance that so few of the indigenous plants of these Colonies yield any fruit suitable for human subsistence. In this respect, as has long been noticed by botanists and others, Australia stands singularly apart from every other portion of the known world.

The present article is chiefly a republication of the paper alluded to, but with such additions as a longer residence in the Colony enables me to make.

Mr. Backhouse classified the plants, as far as practicable, into those yielding Roots, Fruits, or Leaves available for the sustenance of man; but I shall deviate from that course, and notice them according to their natural orders, as they follow in the system of De Candolle.

DICOTYLEDONES.

Nat. Ord. CRUCIFERÆ. Cress family.

Genus, *Cardamine*.

C. heterophylla is a small cress, common in good light soil in most parts of the Colony.

C. nivea is a larger species, found growing on the South Esk, near Launceston, and at the base of Mount Wellington.

C. tenuifolia is an aquatic species, common about Norfolk Plains and the western parts of the Colony.

These, as also a few other plants of this well-known family, might be eaten like the common cress; although generally, when in a wild state, or not growing luxuriantly, they are slightly acrid.

Nat. Ord. **PITTOSPOREÆ.** Pittosporum family.

Genus, *Billardiera*. Apple Berry.

B. mutabilis has a green cylindrical fruit, becoming of a lighter green or amber colour when ripe, possessing a pleasant sub-acid taste; but the seeds are numerous and hard.

This species is common about Launceston, growing among stones in dry places; and I saw it very abundant on Flinder's Island. The fruit drops off immediately on becoming ripe, and must usually be picked off the ground; but it does not bear in sufficient quantity to be useful.

Nat. Ord. **GERANIACEÆ.** Geranium family.

Geranium parviflorum. Small-flowered Geranium.

I include this plant in my list, as I have been informed that the Aborigines were in the habit of digging up its roots, which are large and fleshy, and roasting them for food. It was called about Launceston "native carrot." This species is very widely distributed over the Colony, and usually found in light loamy soil.

Nat. Ord. **OXALIDÆ.** Wood-sorrel family.

Oxalis microphylla. Small-leaved Wood-sorrel.

"This little plant, which displays its lively yellow blossoms on almost every grassy spot in the Colony, and has acid leaves in form resembling the leaves of clover, is very pleasant eaten raw to allay thirst; and made into tarts it is almost equal to the barberry."

O. lactea, a white flowering species, is found about the Hampshire and Surrey Hills, and western parts of the Colony; but is too sparingly distributed to be generally serviceable, like the preceding species.

Nat. Ord. **RUTACEÆ**. Rue family.

Correa alba. Cape Barren Tea.

The leaves of this species, which is common all along the sea-coast, forming a small shrub from 2 to 4 feet high, have been used by the sealers on the islands in Bass's Straits as a substitute for tea.

Nat. Ord. **LEGUMINOSÆ**. Pea family.

Although we possess about 60 species of this family, exclusive of the *Acaciæ*, none of them yield good edible seeds.

Of the genus *Acacia*, the Aborigines were in the habit of collecting the pods of the species *Sophora* or *Boobialla*, (which is a common shrub, growing from 6 to 15 feet high, on the sand-hills of the coast,) when the seeds were ripening, and, after roasting them in the ashes, they picked out the seeds and ate them.

The seeds of *A. verticillata* (prickly Acacia), and some other common species, might doubtless be eaten in the same way. A gum, resembling in character and properties the gum-arabic of commerce (which is produced by a species of this genus), exudes abundantly at certain seasons from the bark of several species of *Acaciæ*, particularly from those known as Silver and Black Wattles, (*A. affinis* and *mollissima*), and might be collected in considerable quantities.

Nat. Ord. **ROSACEÆ**. Rose family.

Rubus macropodus. Common Bramble.

The common bramble of the Colony has a well-flavoured fruit, but the seeds are large and hard: it bears abundantly in many situations in January and February.

The finest fruit in the Colony, however, is produced by a small species of this genus (*Rubus Gunnianus*) bearing yellow flowers, found commonly on the summits of all the mountains, and also in the level country of the

Hampshire and Surrey Hills; which are from 1200 to 1500 feet above the level of the sea. It is a small creeping plant, seldom exceeding an inch or two in height, but covering patches of ground of several feet in extent. The soil in which I found that it bore most fruit was composed principally of decayed wood. The fruit, which is large, of a fine red colour, and formed like that of the *Rubus Arcticus*, is hidden from sight under the leaves (and also often partly buried under the light soil), which densely cover the ground. The flavour resembles that of the English cranberry.

Acæna Sanguisorba. The Burr of the Colonists.

The leaves of this plant are said to be an excellent substitute for tea. It is common every where, and well known from the annoyance caused by its seeds hooking on to the stockings and other parts of the dress of pedestrians.

Nat. Ord. MYRTACEÆ. Myrtle family.

The genera *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* are in the Island indiscriminately called "Tea-tree," without reference to species. The leaves of some have been used as a substitute for tea; but the flavour is too highly aromatic to please the European taste.

Nat. Ord. FICOIDEÆ. Fig-marigold family.

Genus, *Mesembryanthemum.*

M. æquilaterale (pig-faces), the canagong of the Aborigines. The pulp of the almost shapeless, but somewhat ob-conical, fleshy seed-vessel of this plant is sweetish and saline; it is about an inch and a half long, of a yellowish, reddish, or green colour. The celebrated Dr. Robert Brown observes, that this is the most widely diffused plant in Australia, being found on all the coasts. It seldom extends many hundred yards inland, except along the margins of rivers like

the Derwent and Tamar, which may indeed be called estuaries. The fruit is ripe about the end of January, February, and March.

Nat. Ord. CAPRIFOLIACEÆ. Honeysuckle family.

Sambucus Gaudichaudiana.

The elder of this Colony has an annual stem, seldom exceeds three feet in height, and is only found in the richest soil, in shady humid situations. It bears very large cymes of a white fruit, and of sweetish taste. In some places they may be collected in large quantities.

Nat. Ord. CINCIONACEÆ. Peruvian Bark family.

Genus, *Coprosma.*

Of this genus, which belongs to the coffee section of *Cinchonaceæ*, there are three species in the Colony, all bearing esculent berries.

C. hirtella or *cuspidifolia* (both being the same species), called "native holly," is a shrub growing from 4 to 8 feet high in rocky places, and bears a large dark red or purple drupe, almost the size of a small cherry, containing two seeds resembling in form flat coffee berries. The pulp, or succulent coating of the seeds, is of a sweetish flavour, but not very agreeable. This species seldom bears much fruit, nor is it sufficiently plentiful in one spot to be so useful as either of the two following species.

C. microphylla—one of many plants called in the Colony by the name of "native currant." This grows from 6 to 10 or 12 feet high, in almost every umbrageous ravine, and in many places forms the principal underwood in dense forests. The fruit is a small red round drupe, about the size of a small pea; and these it bears abundantly. Some years ago, when our British fruits were scarce, it was made into puddings by some of the settlers; but the size and number of the seeds were objectionable.

C. nitida. This species is smaller than the last—growing more erect and dense, and seldom exceeding from 4 to 6 feet in height. It exists on the sides and near the summits of all the mountains; but also abounds in the open country about the Hampshire and Surrey Hills. The fruit, which it bears in profusion, is elliptical, of a coral-red colour, sometimes approaching to amber. In an excursion some years ago I was enabled to relieve three men, who formed my party, when suffering severely from excessive thirst, by the berries of this species.

All the species are diœcious.

Nat. Ord. ERICÆÆ. Heath family.

Genus, *Gaultheria*.

G. hispida, or wax cluster, is “abundant in the middle region of Mount Wellington, and in other elevated and moist situations in the Colony. The fruit is formed by the thickened divisions of the calyx, inclosing the small seed-vessel: when ripe, it is of a snowy white. The flavour is difficult to describe, but it is not unpleasant. In tarts, the taste is something like that of young gooseberries, with a slight degree of bitterness.” It usually grows from 3 to 6 feet high.

In 1834, I found on Ben Lomond a small shrub, bearing large white fruit of a superior flavour, which I believe to belong to this genus: but as I had only time to collect two or three small specimens off the only plant I saw, and which I did not carefully examine, I may be wrong in placing it here. The shrub was only about 9 inches high, bushy, and the fruit as large as that of *G. hispida*.

Nat. Ord. EPACRIDÆÆ. Epacris family.

All the fruits of the berry-bearing section of this extensive natural order are esculent; but the seeds are too large, and the pulpy covering too thin, to render them

very available for food ; and I shall therefore only notice the following :—

Astroloma humifusa, the Tasmanian cranberry, is extensively known and diffused, being found all over the Colony. “ It has a fruit of a green or whitish colour (sometimes slightly red), about the size of a black currant, consisting of a viscid apple-flavoured pulp enclosing a large seed. This fruit grows singly on the trailing stems of the plant, which resembles juniper, bearing beautiful scarlet blossoms in winter.” Children appear to be fond of this fruit.

The fruit of *Styphelia adscendens*, a small prostrate shrub, common near Degraes’s Saw-mill, at Hobart, resembles in appearance and character that of *Astroloma humifusa*.

Leucopogon Richei, also called native currant. This is a large dense shrub, growing only on the sea-coast, and attaining to a height of from 4 to 7 feet. The berries are small, white, and of a herby flavour.

M. Riche, a French naturalist in D’Entrecasteaux’s voyage in search of La Perouse, was lost for three days on the south coast of New Holland, and supported himself principally upon the berries of this plant ; in commemoration of which circumstance it has received its specific name.

Nat. Ord. SOLANÆÆ. Potatoe family.

Solanum laciniatum. Kangaroo Apple.

This is a shrub growing from 4 to 6 feet high, with large deeply-cut leaves, bearing blue flowers, succeeded by a large fruit resembling that of the potatoe. This fruit when perfectly ripe, which is indicated by the outer skin bursting, may be eaten in its natural state, or boiled or baked. It has a mealy subacid taste, and may be eaten in any quantity with impunity ; but until the skin bursts, although the fruit may otherwise appear ripe, it has an

acid taste, and causes an unpleasant burning sensation in the throat. Mr. Backhouse latterly thought our kangaroo apple distinct from the *S. laciniatum* of New South Wales.

The kangaroo apple flourishes best near the coast; but I have seen it on the Derwent, ten miles above New Norfolk. It is a perennial of rapid growth, but tender; a very slight frost injuring it.

Nat. Ord. CHENOPODEÆ. Goosefoot family.

Many of the plants of this family may be used as pot-herbs; and some, such as *Atriplex Halimus*, were very generally so used many years ago, during a season of scarcity in New South Wales, and called "Botany Bay greens."

The genera are *Chenopodium*, *Atriplex*, *Rhogodia*, *Threlheldia*, and *Salicornia*. The young shoots of *Salicornia indica* I have seen pickled.

Nat. Ord. POLYGONÆ. Buckwheat family.

Polygonum adpressum of Hooker, in Botanical Magazine. Macquarie Harbour Vine or Grape.

This is a large climber, introduced into Hobart from Macquarie Harbour by Deputy Assistant Commissary General Lempriere, about 1831 or 1832; but it also abounds in almost every humid forest in the Colony. I have seen it near Circular Head, on the Mersey, and near the western mountains, fifty miles from the sea.

The fruit, which is formed of the thickened divisions of the calyx of the flower, enclosing a triangular seed of unpleasant flavour, hangs in racemes, and is of a sweetish taste. At the penal settlement of Macquarie Harbour it was made into pies, puddings, &c.

Mr. Backhouse is in error in supposing this to be identical with a small trailing, and very similar plant, which grows on the sands near the coast, and which is the true *P. adpressum* of La Billardière.

Nat. Ord. LAURINEÆ. Laurel family.

Atherosperma moschata. Sassafras.

This forms a beautiful tree in many parts of the Colony, attaining to a height of 150 feet, and is from 6 to 7 feet in circumference. Its mode of growth resembles many *Coniferæ* in being conical, and all its branches of the same year's growth radiating from one point on the trunk. A decoction of the bark, either when in its green state, or after having been dried, is used in many remote parts of the Colony as a substitute for tea, and, when taken with plenty of milk, has a pleasant taste. Its effects are, however, slightly aperient.

This tree delights in humidity, and is therefore only found on the margins of streams, in deep valleys, or in the southern and western parts of the Colony, which possess a more humid climate than the centre and eastern sides of the Island.

Nat. Ord. THYMELEÆ. Mezereum family.

Exocarpus cupressiformis. Cherry Tree.

This very handsome cypress-looking tree usually grows in the open forest land, under the slight shade of the Eucalypti; but for upwards of 130 miles in the north-western part of the Colony I only saw a few small plants, in one locality near Rocky Cape; and it is also scarce in some other districts.

The fruit is red, of a sweet taste, oval, and not exceeding the size of a currant: it grows outside the nut or fruit, whence the name.

Exocarpus strictus is a smaller shrub with white fruit, similar in other respects to the *E. cupressiformis*.

Nat. Ord. SANTALACEÆ. Sandal Wood family.

Leptomeria Billardieri.

This shrub grows about six feet high. resembling in

appearance the *Exocarpus strictus*, or like broom, only of a deeper green colour : like it also, it is devoid of leaves, but the branches are more slender and delicate. It bears its numerous spikes of small white flowers, and subsequently its green fruit, at the extremity of the branches. The whole plant, as well as the fruit, is of an acid taste, with a certain degree of astringency, but well suited when chewed to allay thirst. This plant is usually found in light sandy soil, but it varies its station much. Although not abundant, it is widely distributed.

Nat. Ord. CASUARINÆ. She-oak family.

Casuarina quadrivalvis. Common She-oak.

The leaves, or rather young branches, of this tree when chewed yield a pleasant acid ; and I have found them extremely useful in some of my rambles when in want of water. Cattle are also exceedingly fond of them. This tree does not exist in the north-western parts of the Colony.

MONOCOTYLEDONES.

Nat. Ord. ORCHIDÆ. Orchis family.

A number of plants of this family have small bulbous roots, which were eaten by the Aborigines, as they are still by cockatoos, bandicoots (*Perameles*), kangaroo rats (*Hypsiprymnus*), &c. Little holes are often seen where the latter animals have been scratching for them.

Gastrodia sesamoides is a plant of this family which grows from the decaying roots of the stringy-bark (*Eucalyptus sp.*) : it is leafless, with flowers of a brown colour, and attains to a height of one to two feet. Mr. Backhouse observes—" It produces bulb-tubers, growing one out of another, of the size, and nearly the form, of kidney potatoes ; the lowermost is attached by a bundle of thick fleshy fibres to the root of the tree, from which it derives its nourishment. These roots were roasted.

and eaten by the Aborigines : in taste they resemble beet-root ; and are sometimes called, in the Colony, “ native potatoes.”

The genera *Pterostylis*, *Caladenia*, *Microtis*, *Prasophyllum*, *Diuris*, *Thelymitra*, &c. also bear small bulbs, and are generally diffused over the open and thinly-wooded parts of the Colony.

Nat. Ord. ASPHODELEÆ. Asphodel family.

Xanthorrhæa arborea. Grass Tree.

Mr. Backhouse observes—“ The base of the inner leaves of the grass-tree are not to be despised by the hungry. The Aborigines beat off the heads of these singular plants by striking them about the top of the trunk with a large stick ; then they stript off the outer leaves and cut away the inner ones, leaving about an inch and a half of the white tender portion joining the trunk : this portion they ate raw or roasted ; and it is far from disagreeable in flavour, having a nutty taste, slightly balsamic.

“ There are some other species of grass-tree in the Colony, the base of the leaves of which also may be used as food: those of the dwarf grass-tree (*Xanthorrhæa humilis*), so abundant about York Town, may be obtained by twisting the inner leaves firmly together and pulling them forcibly upwards ; but care is required not to cut the fingers by slipping the hand.”

The different species of *Xanthorrhæa* are only found on the poorest land, and usually in quartzose sand, in very open situations.

Astelia Alpina.

This is a plant forming large patches on the summits of the mountains, with light green silky leaves springing from the root, and covered underneath with a white down. The fruit is red, of a sweet taste, growing in the centre of each plant, and about the size of a large pea.

“ The blanched portion of the base of the inner leaves of some rushes, and of a flat sedgy plant growing on the sand-hills of the coast, having the mature leaves an inch wide and of a deep green, are eatable, and of a nutty flavour. The flowers of this plant, to the eye of a common observer, resemble those of rushes. They grow in clusters on a stem as flat and broad as the leaves.”

ACOTYLEDONES.

Nat. Ord. FILICES. Fern Family.

Pteris esculenta. Eatable Fern.

I cannot here do better than again quote largely from Mr. Backhouse, who remarks :—“ The most extensively diffused edible root of Van Diemen’s Land is that of the Tara fern. This greatly resembles *Pteris aquilina*, the common fern, brake, or breckon of England ; and, like it, throws up its single stems at short distances, covering great extents of light or rich land. The Van Diemen’s Land plant is *Pteris esculenta*, and is known among the Aborigines by the name of Tara : by the same name the inhabitants of the South Sea Islands call a variety of esculent seeds and roots. *Pteris esculenta* is known among the European inhabitants of the Colony by the name of Fern, in common with many other plants of the same tribe ; none of which, however, spread over extensive portions of open land in the same manner. It varies in height from a few inches to several feet, according to the richness of the soil in which it grows ; and in some parts of the Colony it is so tall as to conceal a man on horseback. The root is not bulbous, but creeps horizontally at a few inches below the surface of the earth, and, where it is luxuriant, attains to the thickness of a man’s thumb. Pigs feed upon this root where it has been turned up by the plough ; and in sandy soils they will themselves turn up the earth in search of it. The Abo-

rigines roast this root in the ashes, peel off its black skin with their teeth, and eat it to their roasted kangaroo, &c. in the manner that Europeans eat bread. The root of the Tara fern possesses much nutritive matter; yet it is to be observed, that persons who have been reduced to the use of it, in long excursions through the bush, have become very weak—though it has prolonged life. Whether this arose from an insufficient supply, from eating it raw, or from some other cause, I am unable to determine. It is quite certain that when this root is grated, or reduced to a pulp by beating, and mixed with cold water, a large quantity of fecula, resembling arrow-root, is precipitated, which adheres to the bottom of the vessel, and which may easily be prepared for use by pouring off the water and floating matter; adding fresh water, stirring up the white powder, and again allowing it to settle. It may then be cooked by boiling; or the powder may be spread on clothes and dried in the sun, or hung up in linen bags where there is a free circulation of air."

On Table Cape, on the north coast of the Island, I saw this fern growing upwards of ten feet high.

Cybotium Billardieri. Tree Fern.

Mr. Backhouse observes:—"The native blacks of the Colony used to split open about a foot and a half of the top of the trunk of the common fern tree, and take out the heart, in substance resembling a Swedish turnip, and of the thickness of a man's arm. This they also roasted in the ashes, and ate as bread; but it is too bitter and astringent to suit an English palate. It is said that the Aborigines preferred the heart of another species of fern tree, found at Macquarie Harbour, and in other places on the northern side of Van Diemen's Land."

The fern tree is very generally diffused over the Colony in humid umbrageous ravines, and also to the

southward and westward, growing more extensively in the dense forests where the climate is moist, as at the Huon River, on the sides of mountains, and towards Emu Bay and the Hampshire Hills.

Nat. Ord. FUNGI. Fungus family.

“ An esculent fungus is found growing in clusters around swollen portions of the branches of the myrtle-tree of the Colony (*Fagus Cunninghamii*), in the western parts of the Island. It varies from the size of a marble to that of a walnut: when young it is of a pale colour, whitish, and covered with a skin like that of a young potatoe: this skin is easily taken off, and the remaining portion, when raw, tastes like cold cow-heel. When this fungus is matured, the skin splits, and exhibits a sort of network of a yellowish white colour.” It is in season about January.

Agaricus campestris? Common Mushroom.

This, which seems to be precisely similar to the common esculent mushroom of England, needs no description. It is very plentiful in many parts of the Colony, and has a very fine flavour.

The large white fungus, called in the Colony punk, which grows from the stringy-bark, is said to have been eaten, when fresh, by the Aborigines.

Mylitta Australis. Native Bread.

“ This species of tuber is often found in the Colony, attaining to the size of a child’s head: its taste somewhat resembles boiled rice. Like the heart of the tree fern, and the root of the native potatoe (*Gastrodia*), cookery produces little change in its character.” Mr. Backhouse states that he often asked the Aborigines how they found the native bread, and universally received the answer—“ a rotten tree.” The Rev. Mr. Garrett, of Bothwell, has recently informed me that, on the dry

open hills of that district, it is to be detected in the early part of summer, by observing the ground when bursting upwards as with something swelling under it, which is this fungus.

I have now closed my list of the vegetable productions of this Island, which, so far as I yet know, can in any way be rendered available for the sustenance of man. Not one of them is of sufficient value to be worthy of the attention of the agriculturist or horticulturist; and it would also be a matter of difficulty to classify their products according to the relative importance of each as articles of food. Mr. Backhouse, however, arranged his list as follows:—

Those yielding Roots—

- Pteris esculenta*, or common fern.
- Gastrodia Sesamoïdes* and *Orchideæ*.
- Cybotium Billardieri*, or tree fern.
- Fungus on *Fagus Cunninghamii*.
- Native Bread.
- Mushroom.
- Sedgy plant on sea-coast.
- Xanthorrhæa* species.

The Fruits as follows—

- Solanum laciniatum*, or kangaroo apple.
- Mesembryanthemum æquilaterale*, or pigs' faces.
- Polygonum adpressum?* or Macquarie Harbour grape.
- Gaultheria hispida*, or wax cluster.
- Astroloma humifusa*, or cranberry.
- Leucopogon Richei*, and other *Epacrideæ*.

Yielding Leaves to allay thirst—

- Oxalis microphylla*, and *Casuarina quadrivalvis*.

And then followed the plants whose leaves were used as substitutes for tea; and the *Chenopodeæ*, which might be boiled and eaten as greens.

To a person, however, lost in the bush, or uninhabited wilds of Tasmania, and compelled to have recourse to its indigenous plants for his support, much would necessarily depend upon the locality where, and the season when, he was lost, as to the means he would possess of obtaining food; and whether it was on the sea-coast, on the tops or sides of the rugged mountains, in the open bush, in a myrtle forest, or in a dense ravine, he must look for the productions peculiar to each: for few of those I have enumerated can be said to be universally diffused.

I shall now briefly allude to them as they would occur in these different situations; and as I have already mentioned, under the respective heads, what parts of the plants are available, I shall merely subjoin the names.

On the Sea-coast the following plants occur—

Oxalis microphylla, or wood-sorrel.

Correa alba, or Cape Barren tea.

Acacia Sophora, and other species.

Rubus macropodus, common bramble.

Acæna sanguisorba, burr.

Leptospermum, tea tree.

Melaleuca, ditto.

Mesembryanthemum æquilaterale, pigs' faces.

Sambucus Gaudichaudiana, elder.

Leucopogon Richei, currant.

Astroloma humifusa, cranberry.

Solanum luciniatum, kangaroo apple.

Chenopodeæ, of different species.

Exocarpus cupressiformis, cherry tree.

Leptomeria Billardieri.

Casuarina quadrivalvis.—This is not seen in the north west of the Colony.

Orchideæ, of species.

Xanthorrhæa, of species, grass tree.

Pteris esculenta, common fern.

On the summits of Mountains occur—

Rubus Gunnianus.

Species of *Leptospermum* and *Epacrideæ*.

Astelia montana.

And as you descend, on the sides of Mountains—

Coprosma nitida (which is the most valuable).

Oxalis microphylla.

Gaultheria hispida.

Atherosperma moschata.

Cybotium Billardieri.

Coprosma microphylla and *hirtella*, in the ravines.

Polygonum adpressum (?), in some situations.

In the open Forest, or common Bush—

Billardiera mutabilis, in rocky places.

Geranium parviflorum.

Oxalis microphylla.

Acaciæ, yielding gum.

Rubus macropodus.

Acæna sanguisorba.

Astroloma humifusa.

Exocarpus cupressiformis.

Casuarina quadrivalvis.

Orchideæ.

Pteris esculenta.

Agaricus campestris.

Mylitta Australis, native bread.

In the dense myrtle forests of the Colony, the number of food-plants is very limited. These forests stretch for upwards of twenty miles in a north and south direction, on the north coast about Emu Bay; and in a direction east and west, parallel to the sea, they are still more extensive.

Coprosma microphylla, occurs in many places.

Atherosperma moschata, or sassafras.

- Polygonum adpressum*, or Macquarie Harbour grape.
Pteris esculenta, in the open parts and small plains,
 which occur here and there.
Cybotium Billardieri, or tree ferns, generally
 throughout.
 Fungus on myrtle trees.

ART. VII. *A Catalogue of the Birds of Tasmania.* By
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RAPTORES.

1. *Aquila fucosa*. The wedge-tailed eagle—eagle-hawk.
2. *Haliaëtus leucogaster*. The sea eagle. Breeds in
 the Islands near Flinder's.
3. *Pandion leucocephalus*. The fish hawk, or white-
 headed eagle.
4. *Falco melanogenys*. The Peregrine falcon of Tas-
 mania. Rare.
5. — *frontatus*. The little falcon.
6. *Ieracidea berigora*. The lizard hawk—brown hawk.
 Common.
7. *Accipiter torquatus*. Sparrow-hawk of the Colonists :
 this is our commonest species.
8. *Astur Novæ Hollandiæ* ; *Astur albus*. The white
 hawk.
9. *Astur approximans*. I am doubtful whether my
 specimen came from this Colony, or from New
 South Wales.
10. *Circus Jardinii*. The swamp hawk.
11. *Strix personata*, Vigors ; *Strix castanops*, Gould.
 These do not differ except from age ; the latter
 being the adult state. I have another species