Charles Moore. Plant Hunting in the South Pacific. 1850.

Alistair Watt

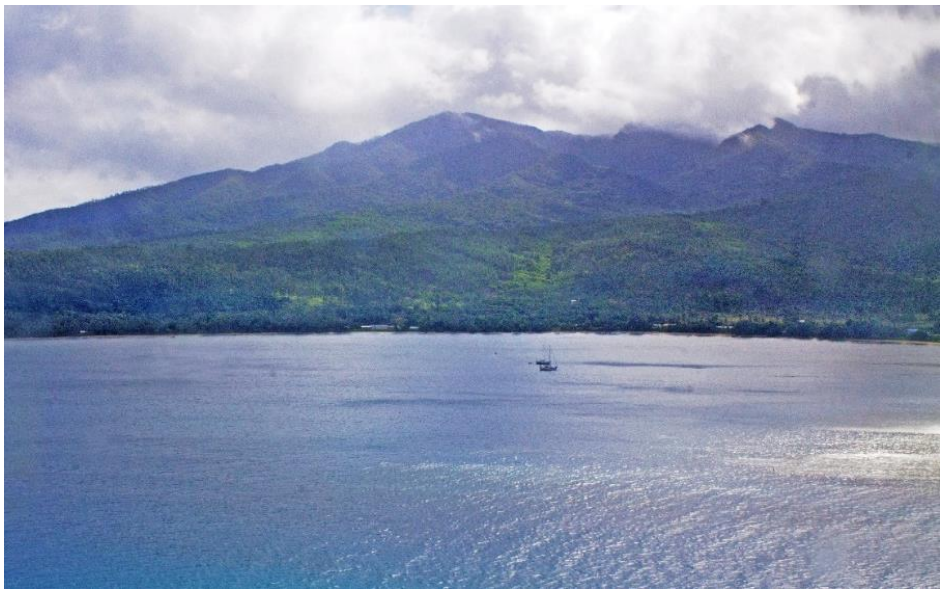
HMS *Havannah*, photo Wikipedia

Charles Moore was a Scot born on 10 May 1820 in Dundee, son of Charles Muir (the original spelling of surname) and his wife Helen. Moore initially worked as a botanist in Ireland before moving on to England in 1847 and taking up positions at Kew. On the recommendation of John Lindley and Professor John Henslow he was appointed 'Government Botanist' and Director of the Botanic Gardens in Sydney by the Colonial Office in London.

Moore arrived in Sydney mid-January 1848. Immediately, he found some resentment had been aroused in the local establishment by his displacing the popular incumbent John Bidwill. Nevertheless he was able to settle in and in 1850 was invited by Captain John Erskine to travel as a botanist on the flag-waving cruise of HMS *Havannah*. This was undoubtedly a wonderful opportunity for Moore, he was following in the path of many illustrious botanical predecessors such as Banks and Labillardiere.

On 4 July 1850, *Havannah* departed Sydney heading for the magical isles of the South Pacific. Luckily, Moore kept a quite detailed diary on the voyage, which is now held at the Mitchell Library.

Following a business-like visit to New Zealand, where the was able to arrange for future plant exchanges, in mid-August, *Havannah*, anchored in Anelcauhat Bay off Aneityum, the southernmost island of the archipelago now known as Vanuatu. Here Charles Moore began his real work as botanist to the voyage. He was soon able to go ashore and explore the vegetation. Two groups of Europeans were already established on the island, Presbyterian missionaries and a group of sandalwood cutters under the leadership of Captain James Paddon. Rising up to 850 metres altitude Aneityum was, and still is, a botanical paradise with much of its forest still intact from Moore's time there.



Anelcauhat Bay, Aneityum Island, Vanuatu. Note the two yachts anchored offshore, perhaps in the same spot as did the *Havannah*. (Unless otherwise stated all photographs are by the author).

Moore was able to make a number of significant new plant collections, some of these he forwarded onto the illustrious John Lindley, the leading light of the Horticultural Society in London, and these were described in the *Journal of the Horticultural Society* as early as 1851. The species from Aneityum, published there by Lindley, included Moore's new orchid namesake, *Dendrobium mooreanum,* and *Dammara obtusa,* now sunk into *Agathis macrophyll*a, as well as some of the specimens which he collected later in New Caledonia. From Charles Moore's journal we can identify several other plants of great interest including *'an ericaceous shrub'* most likely the unusual Pacific blueberry, *Vaccinium macgillivrayii* as well as: *'*a graceful species of *taxad',* which would be the conifer, *Dacrycarpus imbricatus.* He also noted a large red-flowered tree with an edible fruit which is almost certainly *Syzygium malaccense.*

However, perhaps the most fascinating of Moore's own journal notes is his report of finding "*a beautiful species of Araucaria"* on Aneityum. In his 1851 article, Lindley calls this *Araucaria cookii,* however there is some doubt that the specimen can just be referred to the present-named species *A. columnaris.* This mystery *Araucaria* apparently had previous been relatively common on the island but as a result of depredations by the sandalwood traders felling the tree for ship's timbers, it had even then become very rare. Herbarium specimens still held at the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Sydney from a seedling collected by Moore are clearly identified as *Araucaria anitense.* The plant was still growing in the gardens in 1901.

The evidence here suggests that there was perhaps an indigenous species of *Araucaria* growing on the southern island of Vanuatu in 1850, and which was being severely threated by European actions. It has been suggested that this was simply a pre-European Melanesian introduction to Aneityum, however, it needs to be noted that the contemporary flora reported by Moore also included several other equally 'Gondwanan' species – *Agathis, Dacrycarpus* and two *Podocarpus* species. In any event it appears from information obtained during our own visit to the island in 201, that large, mature trees of an *Araucaria* still grow there on Aneityum at Port Patrick and which may be an unrecognized new species.

A fine specimen of *Agathis macrophylla* in the surviving forest on Aneityum Island.

Above left*. Barringtonia procera,* Moore's *Stravadium album.*

Above and above right. *Vaccinium macgillivrayi.* This blueberry, essentially from a northern hemisphere genus, somehow has found its way to a tropical island in the South Pacific. A clear example of natural distribution by birds.

The stay at Aneityum was short but profitable however, the next port of call, the island of Tanna, would have been a destination that Moore much looked forward to, if for nothing else but the presence of its highly active and readily accessible volcano, Yasur. It is not surprising that Captain Erskine himself was determined to lead a party into the interior of the island in order to claim the first European ascent of the 360-metre-high mountain. Even today, the relatively easy climb to view the active crater, especially at night, provides for one of the major tourism destinations for the nation of Vanuatu- although the activity is restricted at times depending on the explosive mood of the volcano.

***Dendrobium mooreanum* from Aneityum. Described in 1851 by John Lindley from a Moore collection. Photo courtesy Mark Clements.**

In August of 1850 however, due to the unfettered activities of sandalwood traders, relations with the Tanna natives were fraught. Unfortunately this meant that for Charles Moore, Captain Erskine had no option but to keep a very tight leash on the activities of his botanist. If some serious incident had occurred, at the worst the death of a member of his crew or passenger, the Captain would have had no option but to take severe punitive action against the locals – and John Erskine was too humane a man to risk that. It is clear that he did not take the possibility of Moore being killed lightly and restricted the botanical collecting activities of his supernumerary to only being part of well-manned and armed shore parties.

It was only in an expedition of 11 crewmen, under the personal leadership of Capt. Erskine, that a party was able to undertake the arduous trek to the summit of the volcano, Moore wrote in his journal:

> the greater and active crater was at work upheaving in awful grandeur seas of red hot lava to the height of about 400 feet as the lava appeared in the air it resembled some woolen substance torn into so many pieces we approached to within about 100 yards of the mouth of the crater within a few yards of where many pieces of lava fell which enabled many of our party amongst the missiles to make a rush and secure masses immediately after it fell which was at this time of the consistency of prepared putty.

An interesting plant that Moore noted on Tanna was the occurrence of a wild nutmeg tree almost certainly *Myristica inutilis* var. *papuana* which ranges from Papua New Guinea through the Vanuatu archipelago. This plant was, and still is, used in Vanuatan traditional medicine for treatment of chest infections.

The recognisable seed of the nutmeg, *Myristica inutilis*, native to Vanuatu.

Next on the cruise itinerary, Dillon's Bay, Erromango, reached on 28 August 1850, was an even more dangerous place than Tanna as only a few years earlier two missionaries had been killed and eaten. Soon after their first landing they were threatened by a group of some 200 natives armed with bows and spears and had to make a hasty retreat. Next day, Moore earned the displeasure of Captain Erskine by taking it upon himself to have a re-watering party drop him on the shore. Despite being immediately recalled back to the ship, the dedicated botanist managed to make a couple of valuable collections. One of which was a *Hoya*, possibly *H. neoebudica*. His new acacia was probably *A. simplex*, a strand species from coastal Vanuatu, and which also occurs in New Caledonia. Other significant plants noted by the botanist were *Barringtonia procera* and *Syzygium malaccense* both of which have edible fruits.

The majestic cone of Mt Yasur on Tanna Island is easily visited today by today's tourists.

Sailing northwards, on 1 September the *Havannah* anchored off the east coast of Efate, the main island of the group and where today's national capital Port Vila is located. Unfortunately, Moore was unable to pursue much botanical exploration as a result of the Captain becoming involved in a complicated dispute between the natives and sandalwood traders. Nevertheless he did record a number of various tree species in native gardens with edible fruits as well as the local cycad, *Cycas seemannii.*

Typical S. Pacific strand flora, including *Casuarina equisetifolia,* on the east coast of Efate Island.

***Cycas seemannii* here makes a dramatic specimen. Note the large yellow seeds, which are edible after careful treatment.**

Erskine continued his voyage northwards through the archipelago of what is now Vanuatu, passing by islands with magical names like Epi, Paama and Emae. A landing was made at Maleku Island on 8 September, previously visited by Cook in 1774, which afforded Moore some time for exploration ashore.

Although Charles Moore never made any pretension to be a taxonomist, his journal reveals that he was a highly competent field botanist. In his diary he was able to record finding the typical strand plants of the South Pacific. *Hibiscus tiliaceus, Thespesia populnea, Hernandia nymphaeifolia, Terminalia catappa,* and *Calophyllum inophyllum* clad with *Dendrobium* and other orchids. He recorded the ethnobotany of the villagers giving their indigenous plant names and uses. Moore noted *Spondius dulcis,* of which he collected seeds, wild limes, breadfruit and coconuts as food trees in village gardens but also the native's use of purely ornamental plants including variegated crotons and orchids. His collections included two species of *Hoya* and several different palms. On this occasion the local villagers were friendly, even assisting Moore with his activities.

The edible fruit of *Spondias dulcis.* The spidery shaped kernel is bizarre.

Departing Vanuatu and sailing 400km due north, the next of the Melanesian islands was Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, attained on 13 September. It was here that the ill-fated French La Pérouse Expedition met its disastrous end when both of the ships had been smashed on the surrounding reef during a storm. The botanising was good and some fine ferns and hoyas were collected. For posterity, Moore also made mentioned the site where La Pérouse's surviving crew had launched their small vessel constructed from the original wreckage. Charles Moore's finest find here was what he reported as a new species of *Dammara* (i.e. *Agathis*). He described this tree as possessing leaves much larger than that of the species previously observed on Aneityum but suggested that they may well be related. According to Mabberley, a dried specimen from this Moore collection, and apparently intended by the latter to be named *'Dammara peyrousei'*, was in fact described by John Lindley *as "Dammara macrophylla'* i.e. *Agathis macrophylla*. (*Journal of Horticulture Society,* 1851). This is the type specimen for the species, which now includes other Melanesian Kauris eg. *Agathis vitiensis* and Moore's earlier collection from Aneityum, *'Dammara obtusa'.*

Another interesting tree that Moore found at Vanikoro, with a green fruit resembling a pine cone, is most likely to be *Morinda citrifolia,* the Noni. This species, commonly grown by South Pacific islanders, is now considered by some to provide a miracle health cure for multitudinous ailments.

The green 'cones' of the Noni fruit, *Morinda citrifolia*

There was however, one particular plant that the botanist certainly regretted encountering. From his journal, it seems that Moore was so entranced by the flora around him that he made the mistake of being careless while cleaning the seed of an unfamiliar species. From the description of the tree and the fruit, together with the results it inflicted, the plant which so badly affected him at Vanikoro Island was almost certainly one of the species of *Semecarpus* found in the Solomon Islands. Although the *Semecarpus* plant has now been shown to possess a range of beneficial medical properties, the oil in the nut in particular, can cause a very severe allergic reaction in those susceptible. He wrote:

> 18th September. Reached St. Christoval Island the most southern of the Solomon Group. eyes and face distorted and enlarged that I had great difficulty in seeing and anyone acquainted with me would have failed in recognising me.
>
> 19th September…this day I was quite blind, my face swelled to a frightful extent. Hands, legs and feet in a similar manner.

The cruise nevertheless continued, rounding the Solomon Islands, but Charles Moore was far too incapacitated to undertake any botanical work.

The tempting 'nuts' of *Semecarpus forstenii* syn. *S. anacardium* proved to be much more dangerous that Moore realised.

Balade Bay near the northern tip of New Caledonia, had already been visited by botanists of earlier years, the Forsters with Captain James Cook in 1774, followed by the great Frenchman J.J. Labillardiere during the D'Entrecasteaux voyage in 1793.

On 4 October 1850, the *Havannah* was heading back south mooring at Balade on the north east coast of New Caledonia. Even then Moore could still only write that he had barely recovered. He was also very homesick. A mail delivery was received here from the escort ship HMS *Bramble,* but there was none from his wife for Charles Moore. He wrote that he 'felt great disappointment at not getting a letter which I had long looked for. Absence makes the heart grow cooler???'

Captain Erskine was following in the wake of some famous predecessors. The great James Cook had sailed into the sheltered bay in September 1774 during the course of his second voyage. Charles Moore was following in the footsteps of his illustrious botanical forebears. The father and son, Johann Reinhold and Georg Forster, had travelled with Captain Cook, and the great French botanist Jacques Julien de la Billardiere botanised there in 1793 with the expedition of d'Entrecasteaux. Labillardiere described his extensive collection of plant material in a dedicated work, *Sertum Austro-Caledonicum* and his account of Balade provides a most interesting comparison with Moore's. In 1793 there had been a period of great famine and tribal warfare in the area. It fell to the ships' doctor i.e. Labillardiere himself to explain to his compatriots that the bones in the meaty stew that they were enjoying were indeed those of fellow human beings.

The good botanical notes in the text of Moore's journal allow us to put names to many of his plant collections. For example, his white-flowered 'callistemon of about 30 feet' is clearly *Melaleuca quinquenervia,* the widespread Niaouli tree. His 'bushy

Callistemon species of a small but elegant habit' is *Metrosideros operculata* and the 'Proteaceous plant' with small, inconspicuous yellow flowers would be *Stenocarpus umbelliferus*. The *'Metrosideros* with red flowers*',* by deduction, is most likely to be the species now named as *Purpureostemon ciliatus.* In an article of 1851, John Lindley recorded that Charles Moore had collected '*Metrosideros ciliata,* a charming crimson flowered bush' on the east coast of the island.

In 1994, my wife and I had the pleasure of exploring the beach at Balade some 200 years after the time of d'Entrecasteaux. It still conveys the same atmosphere that those early explorers must have experienced and certainly the species of plants along the margins of the bay would be identical to those that they collected. The gap in the reef where the longboats came in to the beach still remains, as does the little creek behind the sandy shore where their water-barrels could be refilled.

A most interesting new species which Charles Moore discovered in New Caledonia, and one named for him, is the very beautiful lily, *Xeronema moorei.* This collection is clearly recorded by a herbarium specimen at the Sydney Botanic gardens which is identified as having been collected in New Caledonia by Moore (in his own handwriting) in 1850 and with a 'New Caledonia no7' number. The evidence of the collector's number would suggest that Moore perhaps collected his specimen in the hills above Balade. However, consideration of the situations where *Xeronema* grows i.e. principally on rocky ultramafic ridges, would make the Canala area more likely to be the locality where it was discovered. The species was first described and named by the French botanists A Brogniart and A Gris in 1864 from a specimen sent to them by Ferdinand von Mueller to whom Moore had entrusted with his herbarium collections.

We had the privilege of reintroducing the superb lily, *Xeronema moorei,* to cultivation following a plant collecting expedition to New Caledonia in 1987. The collections from above 1000m. altitude manage to grow in the open ground here in cold Lavers Hill in Victoria.

The bay at Hienghene

Ten days later the *Havannah* had sailed down the coast and into the dramatic towering-rock fringed bay at Hienghene, one of the most attractive destinations for any present day traveller to New Caledonia. The combination of the mild coastal climate and the rich soil allows for the full development of a tropical rainforest, and there was plenty for the botanist to appreciate.

The new species of *Dammara* which Moore found here was eponymously named *Agathis moorei* by Lindley in 1851. The fine timber, 'Kauri Blanc' was favoured by the Kanaks for making their pirogues and was later exploited by Europeans for house construction. A tree of this species, brought back to Sydney by Moore, and planted in 1853, from the voyage survived in the botanic gardens until 2006 when it perished from depredation by flying foxes – perhaps an act of botanical carelessness. He possibly also collected seeds, as in 1851 he was able to send plant material to London (ref. D. Mabberley).

Many other species mentioned by Moore in his journal are generally still to be found as strand species, or not far inland from present day Hienghene. One item though of note, is his mention of an '*Erythrina* similar in its habit and growth to the upright Poplar*'*. This is undoubtedly *Erythrina variegata* var. *fastigata,* which still is grown in villages in that area as an artificially propagated variety.

Canala Bay in south-east New Caledonia is striking from the red of the mineralised soil. The scars at top centre are a result of nickel mining.

In the distance of the next short sail down the east coast of New Caledonia to Canala Bay, Moore's vessel was entering a new and fascinating botanical territory. The name 'Red Harbour' provides the clue: the botanist was now having his first experience of the red ultramafic soils so prominent in the south of the island. Rich in elements such as nickel and chrome, but poor in nutrients such as potassium and phosphorus, they give rise to one of the most exciting regional floras in the world. Moore explored the slopes above Red Harbour and began to encounter the unusual plants that grow on the highly mineralized terrain for which New Caledonia is renowned.

Among the new plants he listed are the beautiful species so typical of the landscape of the south of the island, *Geissois racemosa, Grevillea exul* and the conifer lookalike *Gymnostoma deplancheanum.*

One of the interesting plants that Charles Moore encountered on the ultramafic soils of the east coast of New Caledonia was *Geissois racemosa.*

Grevilleas are well known as Australian native plants but are also found on New Caledonia as well as in Papua. Moore certainly found the species *Grevillea exul* during the *Havannah's* stay in Canala Bay.

The fastigate variety of *Erythrina variegata* is still occasionally found on the east coast of New Caledonia. Photo courtesy Bernard Suprin, Noumea

***Gymnostoma deplancheanum.* In its old herbarium collections, Kew Gardens hold an undated specimen of this species from New Caledonia with a Charles Moore collection number. The type specimen of this 'casuarina' was originally identified as *Frenela subumbellata,* the foliage being so similar to that of a cypress.**

As the *Havannah* began her homeward journey around the rugged south coast, Charles Moore noted:

> 25th October. Sailed from Kanala…the pine trees, *Araucaria*, became more frequent and on the southeast point whole forests composed entirely of this plant were observed. So singular an appearance have they in some situations that they might readily (at a distance) be mistaken for basaltic columns which indeed was the case by the naturalists who accompanied Captain Cook.

At the end of October, *Havannah* anchored in Port St Vincent (Toumo) just north of the present-day capital, Noumea. Although this west coast of the island is mostly dry and infertile, Moore made more significant collections, perhaps on the forested western slopes of Mt Mou, while Erskine replenished his ship. This included the fern *Blechnum gibbum,* which is nowadays well established in cultivation as Silver Lady. His *'*beautiful species of *Jasminacea'* from here was most likely to have been *Jasminum didymium,* which still grows in that area.

Nevertheless, Charles Moore's succinct final entry suggested that he had now had his fill of what had been a long voyage.

> 29th October. Sailed for Sydney after breakfast and got fairly to sea by 12 o'clock.

Toumo Bay with towering *Araucaria columnaris* and Mt Mou in the background

Back home: some appreciation at last

In February 1851, Charles Moore presented his formal report on the on the progress he had made in the Gardens to the Colonial Secretary. It was a very positive self-review of his recent activities and was subsequently published as a letter in a number of NSW newspapers (eg. 22 Oct. SMH) in the autumn of 1851. He wrote:

> I found sufficient to employ my time profitably, and I availed myself of every means to collect such plants as were either interesting from their novelty or valuable for purposes of economy, and the result of my labours has been the accumulation of a vast number of plants, some quite new, and others chiefly known from dried specimens.

The success of his expedition brought Moore some relief from the scepticism of those who still had doubts about his suitability as Director of the botanic gardens. On 15 November 1851, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the Colony's foremost newspaper stated:

> We are happy to congratulate Mr. Moore, not only on the increase of his salary, which was awarded to him by vote of the legislature last week, but on the fact that not one member spoke upon the question, even including those who opposed the increase, who did not bear most satisfactory testimony to the able and satisfactory manner in which the office of Director of the Gardens is at present filled.

In the same article he also received a degree of praise for some of his new introductions:

> Mr. Moore also exhibited a beautiful Orchid [perhaps *Dendrobium mooreanum*]– a specimen of *Justicia*, and a Plectranthus [*P. scutellarioides* syn. *Coleus blumei*, a Melanesian garden plant] all from the South Sea Islands, and exhibited here for the first time.

Interestingly, and it demonstrates that Charles Moore had a close relationship with local nurserymen, a number of *Hoya* species specifically indicated as 'Moore' collections from the islands of Erromango, Tanna, etc., were being offered for sale in the establishment of Michael Guilfoyle at Double Bay in 1851. Other Moore plants at Guilfoyle's nursery included *Jasminum didymium, Justicia* species from New Caledonia, a new *Erythrina,* and a species named as *'Eugenia rosea'*, also from New Caledonia. The Anatam (Aneityum) Dammara was included, *Bletia* sp. nova (Phaius sp.) and a *Calanthe* species *(Calanthe triplicate),* also from Aneityum, as well as the New Caledonian species *Grevillea exul* and *Codiaeum variegatum* (as *Croton variegata*) were offered at the separate Darling Nursery of TW Sheppard, also in 1851.

By 1857 we can more fully assess the results of Moore's efforts when he published his *Catalogue of Plants* in the Sydney Botanic Gardens. We can assume that the plants listed were reasonable secure in cultivation by then. Unfortunately the text does not name the collector only providing the locality from where the particular species originated. Thus we cannot be 100 per cent confident that all the 'New Caledonian' and 'South Sea' plants listed originated solely from Charles Moore, some may have come in from sandalwood traders for example, but certainly the majority of these are recorded in Moore's journal.

Many of the 32 plants listed by Moore as surviving in the Gardens in 1857 are commonly encountered on the coastal strand in much of the South Pacific, e.g. *Calophyllum inophyllum,* and *Acacia simplex* or have ethnobotanical utility e.g. *Spondias dulcis, Aleurites molucanna* (the candle-nut tree) and *Pandanus tectorius.* Some species, however, are of particular note e.g., the *Araucaria* and *Agathis* species from Vanuatu and New Caledonia, *Erythrina variegata* (as *E. lithosperma*), *Passiflora aurantia* (as *Disemma aurantia),* and the very pretty *Melodinus scandens* from New Caledonia. Another lovely plant species from New Caledonia included in Moore's catalogue was *Phyllanthus variegatus,* is almost certainly a form of *P. nivosus* (syn. *Breynia disticha*), and was also present at Macarthur's Camden Park when it was noted in contemporary records as *Phyllanthus variegata*.

Also notable was what had *not* survived in the Sydney gardens from Moore's 1850 collections. Significantly, the 'failures' included all those various species most likely had been found on the areas of ultramafic soil i.e. the *Stenocarpus* species, *Grevillea exul*, *Geissois racemosa*, *Gymnostoma deplancheanum,* and Xe*ronema moorei* etc. This confirms what we know today – that these particular plants are deucedly difficult to keep alive in cultivation. By nature they are slow growing and evolved to cope with a very low nutrient soil – try to speed matters up with a dose of nitrogen/ phosphate fertiliser – and they will surely die!

In 1895 Moore published a second *Catalogue of Plants* growing in the Botanic Gardens. This only confirmed that the climate of Sydney is not that of the coastal areas of the tropical islands of the south-west Pacific. By then few of the plants Moore had collected survived in cultivation, particularly those from Vanuatu. The significant exceptions were his *Araucaria* and *Agathis* conifer species from New Caledonia and Aneityum, Nevertheless, there was in fact a *new* and more extensive collection of exotic plants, such as ornamental cordylines and crotons, which had come in from the islands where Moore had visited in *Havannah,* but now most were recognised as being too tender to grow outdoors – they were to be considered as green house plants only. By then Fiji, New Caledonia and Vanuatu had seen the visit of several botanists and commercial plant collectors – including those from Britain where a craze for stove house plants had developed in the latter half of the 19th century.

A local market place in Port Vila: the Vanuatans still grow the highly ornamental-leafed plants, including crotons, as they did over 150 years ago. These are the kind of plants we now see in our Australian garden centres in the indoor plant sections.

Moore's eponymous cordyline was a fine stovehouse plant, Missouri Botanical Garden Library

Another important collector, as far as the Sydney gardens was concerned, was John Gould Veitch a scion of the famous British nursery firm. The young J.G. Veitch spent some in the South Pacific in the years 1864-1866 in pursuit of new hothouse plants, a specialty of the Veitch's. On the strong recommendation of Charles Moore himself, Veitch seized an opportunity in 1865 to join a scientific party invited on board HMS *Curacoa* by Commodore Sir William Wiseman, on a similar itinerary to the exploration voyage to the Pacific islands undertaken by the *Havannah* some 15 years earlier. The live plant collections made by John Veitch were extensive and of high quality and there can be little doubt that he passed some of these onto Moore in the Sydney gardens as a return favour for the kindness shown by the latter on the Englishman's arrival in the Colony.

The collections of John Veitch, from native gardens and the wild, brought some beautiful new species into cultivation in Australia and Britain, *Acalpha wilkesiana, Schefflera elegantissima* (as *Aralia elegantissima*), now the well-known indoor plant of our garden centres, and the variegated *Pandanus tectorius* 'Veitchii' appear in the RBG Sydney 1895 catalogue for example: And of course there was the burgundy-colored *Cordyline fruticosa* variety 'Mooreana' (as *Dracaena mooreana*) specifically named for Charles Moore the garden's Director.

In the 1906 history of the Veitch business (*Hortus Veitchii*), J.G. Veitch was given credit for the re-introduction of the unusual red-flowered lily *Xeronema moorei* from New Caledonia, previously discovered by Moore. Nevertheless, *Xeronema* was once again lost to horticulture by the start of the 20th century. Here, I cannot resist the temptation to put my own name up here with two greats of the 1800s! I succeeded in 'reintroducing' this rarely cultivated species into Australia, from two wild collections made in New Caledonia in 1987 and 1993. The latter was from near the summit of Mt Humboldt at around 1400 metres and has some degree of hardiness. I have it growing well and flowering in my garden at 450 metres altitude in Victoria and I know that at least one Melbourne rare plant nursery offered it for sale. A second species of this glorious, but little-known genus, *Xeronema callistemon,* was discovered in 1925 on Poor Knights Island off the east coast of New Zealand.

After nearly 40 years in the position, Moore retired as Director of the RBG Sydney on 5 May 1896. His successor at the Botanic Gardens, J H Maiden, regretted that Moore 'did not commit to paper the horticultural and botanical reminiscences of his long official career … His dislike of writing extended even to letter writing.' Unfortunately for us this meant that his travel diary from the South Pacific cruise was never worked up into a published form, which could have been most interesting and informative. Moore died childless on 30 April 1905 in Paddington and was buried beside his wife in the Anglican section of Rookwood cemetery. His estate was valued for probate at over £5300. Nineteen species were named after him by botanist Ferdinand Mueller.

South Pacific origin species as named in Moore's 1857. Catalogue of Plants.

Acacia laurifolia SSI
Aleurites triloba SSI
Aralia sp. NC
Araucaria cookii NC
Arum excelsa SSI
Baeckia virgata NC
Bletia pallida SSI
Calathea curculigoides SSI
Calophyllum inophylum SSI
Cerbera thevetia SSI
Coleus blumei SSI
Crinum sp. asiaticum ? NC
Dammara moorei NC
Dammara obtusa New Hebrides
Dammars ovata New Caledonia
Disemma aurantia Passiflora NC
Eranthemum bicolor SSI
Erythrina lithosperma variegata SSI
Eugenia corymbosa SSI
Eugenia rosea SSI
Guilandina (Caesalpinia) bonduc SSI
Inocarpus edulis SSI
Melodinus monogynus NC
Melodinus scandens NC
Musa sp. SSI
Musa sp.2 SSI
Pandanus odoratissimus SSI
Pharbitus learii SSI
Phyllanthus variegatus nivosus NC
Piper methystichum SSI
Spondia dulcis SSI
Xylosma suaveolens NC

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