

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NINTH SYMPOSIUM  
ON THE  
NATURAL HISTORY OF THE  
BAHAMAS**

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## ECONOMIC PLANTS INTRODUCED INTO THE BAHAMAS IN 1799?

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### ABSTRACT

In July, 1844, John Carter Brown of Providence, Rhode Island, bought five volumes of letters and miscellaneous documents once in the possession of George Chalmers, a Scottish lawyer and historian who was appointed chief clerk of the privy council committee for trade and foreign plantations in 1786, and colonial agent for the Bahamas in 1792. Chalmers' five volumes of papers concern the Bahama Islands and are arranged in chronological order ranging in date from 1728 to 1818. A wide variety of topics are covered, but letters that address the political and economic situation of the chronically struggling islands feature most prominently. One series of letters, from October 1798, to June 1799, concerns a request from the legislature of the Bahamas to establish a botanical garden in Nassau. To this end Chalmers enlisted the support of Sir Joseph Banks, who had long been working towards the development of a network of economic botanical gardens throughout British colonial possessions. Banks responded promptly and enthusiastically, sending William Dowdeswell, Governor of the Bahamas, instructions for building a garden at Nassau and directing Alexander Anderson, superintendent of the already-established garden on St. Vincent, to gather specimens for transport. This attempt, so optimistically supported, did not succeed. In May 1799 (only seven months after the planters' request to London), four hundred sixty-six plants arrived at Nassau, but there was no garden and no gardener in place to accept them. The plants were parceled out to any planter who was willing to take them and their fate is unclear. We will present Banks' plan for a botanical garden in Nassau, which was based on information

received from General Robert Melville, who had actively participated in the establishment of the St. Vincent botanical garden. We will also present a Table that lists the plants delivered to Nassau in May 1799, and includes the current scientific names and uses for those plants. We have taken preliminary steps to correlate the plants on our list with current known localities of their distribution in the Bahamas.

### INTRODUCTION: GEORGE CHALMERS AND HIS PAPERS

In July, 1844, at the Howe-Leonard Sale in Boston, John Carter Brown of Providence, Rhode Island,<sup>1</sup> bought five leather-bound volumes that contained letters and miscellaneous documents once in the possession of George Chalmers (1742-1825). Chalmers is now recalled primarily as a Scottish antiquary and historian, but in 1763 he accompanied his uncle to America and settled in Baltimore where he practiced law until the Revolution erupted in 1776. Loyalist sympathies dictated his return to England, where he focused his attentions on the study of literature. In 1786 he was appointed chief clerk of the privy council Committee for Trade and Foreign Plantations, and in 1792 colonial agent for the Bahamas, a post he held until his death.<sup>2</sup>

Chalmers's five volumes of papers concern the Bahama Islands from 1728 to 1818.<sup>3</sup> A wide variety of topics are covered, but letters that address the political and economic situation of the chronically struggling islands figure most prominently. One such series of letters, from October, 1798, to June, 1799, concerns a request from the colonial legislature of the Bahamas to establish a botanical garden in Nassau.<sup>4</sup> In response to this

request Chalmers enlisted the support of Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820),<sup>5</sup> President of the Royal Society and patron of the natural sciences, who had long been working towards the development of a network of economic botanical gardens throughout British colonial possessions. Banks responded promptly and enthusiastically, sending William Dowdeswell, Governor of the Bahamas, instructions for building a garden at Nassau<sup>6</sup> and directing Alexander Anderson, superintendent of the already-established garden on St. Vincent in the Lesser Antilles, to gather specimens for transport.<sup>7</sup> That this attempt, so optimistically supported, did not succeed was due to a variety of factors, among which was the very enthusiasm of some of those involved.

In this paper we will first turn our attention to the details of the "garden story," looking at it in relation to other eighteenth-century botanical gardens in the Caribbean and also in relation to the state of plantation agriculture in the Bahamas at the time. We will then present Banks' plan for the Nassau garden and conclude with a table showing the plants sent from St. Vincent with their modern scientific names and locations insofar as we have been able to determine.

#### COLONIAL BOTANICAL GARDENS IN THE WEST INDIES

Throughout the course of the eighteenth century, several European powers established botanical gardens in their colonies to experiment with the viability of new and potentially profitable plants. Although one of the earliest gardens was cultivated by the Dutch at Capetown, South Africa, in 1694, it was left primarily to the French and the British to focus upon possibilities in the western hemisphere.<sup>8</sup> France was particularly active, building a network of West Indian gardens beginning on the island of Guadeloupe in 1716, followed by Cayenne in French Guiana in 1722. Towards the end of the century several gardens were established in St. Domingue (now Haiti). The royal garden in Port-au-Prince was set up in 1777 at the request of Louis XVI to challenge the Spanish trade monopoly of the red dye produced by the cochineal insect (*Dactylopius coccus*).<sup>9</sup>

The first English botanical garden established at St. Vincent owed its origin to a reward offered, beginning in 1762, by the Society of Arts "to any one who would cultivate a spot in the West Indies, in which plants, useful in medicine, and profitable as articles of commerce might be propagated." As the Rev. Lansdown Guilding<sup>10</sup> told the story in his 1825 history of the garden: "General Melville (1723-1809), who was then Chief Governor of the Ceded Islands,<sup>11</sup> while he resided in St. Vincent, with a laudable and patriotic zeal, resolved to commence the task, and in 1765, gave, and cleared at his own expense, twenty acres of land in the most favorable situation he could find, about half a mile distant, in a northerly direction from [the capital of] Kingstown, and abundantly supplied with water. To this, in 1766, another portion of land was added." Although St. Vincent was briefly re-occupied by the French in the 1780s it was returned to Great Britain in 1783. After having suffered from neglect, the garden was restored in 1785 under the patronage of George III and Joseph Banks with Alexander Anderson,<sup>12</sup> botanist and long-time correspondent of Joseph Banks and the Royal Society, shortly afterwards installed as superintendent. From the beginning, Banks saw St. Vincent as a centerpiece in a worldwide network of bases he envisioned for the cultivation of exotic and useful plants.

#### PLANTATION AGRICULTURE IN THE BAHAMAS AT THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

After the American victory over Great Britain in 1783, North American Loyalists focused their attention on emigration possibilities in other British colonies. Although the majority looked north to Canada many, including a number of former cotton planters, moved themselves and their slaves to the not-too-distant and relatively uninhabited Bahamas, encouraged by advantageous terms for land in the sparsely populated Out Islands. In less than five years the population of the Bahamas tripled and the successful cultivation of cotton made 1786 and 1787 the most prosperous peace-time years of the eighteenth century. This prosperity was cut short, however, by the arrival of the

corrupt Lord Dunmore<sup>13</sup> as governor in 1787 and by the arrival of the chenille insect, which began to ravage the cotton crops in 1788.<sup>14</sup> The thin soil of the Bahamas, the result of clear-cutting and wind erosion, was rapidly exhausted by cotton production and new, fresh land proved almost impossible to acquire. By this time automatic land grants to loyalists had ceased and restrictions had been put into place to check abuses by Governor Dunmore, who had used his power to grant land as a personal system of gift and reward. Dunmore was finally recalled to London and relieved of his post in 1796 and a replacement arrived in Nassau in 1798,<sup>15</sup> but although the removal of the governor was a positive step, the planters were still unable to acquire new land for cultivation. George Chalmers, in a letter probably written to the Lords of Trade in 1798, recommended the solution for which the planters had long clamored—access to fresh soil and the removal of restrictive policies towards land grants that had been necessary under Lord Dunmore. Without access to new lands, Chalmers cautioned, the plantation system in the Bahamas would fail and the islands would be deserted.<sup>16</sup>

This, then, was the state of plantation agriculture in the Bahamas in the fall of 1798 when George Chalmers, agent for the Bahamas in London, received a request from the colonial legislature in the Bahamas for a botanical garden to be established in Nassau. The soil was exhausted, the planters were denied access to fresh land, and their existing cotton plantations were being decimated by the chenille. With this request, the legislature demonstrated an interest in the introduction of new plantation crops to replace the beleaguered, and probably doomed, cultivation of cotton.

### **FALL, 1798, THE GARDEN MOVES FORWARD**

Banks and Chalmers responded positively and the project began to move forward immediately, both in London and at the St. Vincent garden, which was to supply the plants for the new establishment at Nassau. In October, 1798, William Walker on St. Vincent notified a friend in Nassau that he had just received a letter from George Chalmers in

London containing a letter from Sir Joseph Banks to Alexander Anderson, superintendent of the St. Vincent botanical garden, instructing him to assemble a shipment of plants to send to Nassau.<sup>17</sup> Walker, about whom we know little except for what he says of himself in the correspondence—that he had held the post(s) of Commissary and Commissioner General [?] on St. Vincent for thirty-four years—replied to Chalmers assuring him that Banks' instructions had been delivered to Anderson. He also broached the subject of the delivery of the plants to Nassau, a problem that had not yet been addressed. War between France and England<sup>18</sup> had made West Indian shipping risky, and an armed ship was required to assure delivery. Appropriate ships were scarce, but Walker said he might be able to hire one in which he had a personal financial interest. He offered as well to accompany the plants from St. Vincent to Nassau because he was planning to retire to his estate on Exuma. He thought a garden was a good idea and was certain that many plants would thrive there. As an example, he explained that a breadfruit tree that he acquired from Bligh's<sup>19</sup> 1793 shipment to the St. Vincent garden had done very well on his property in Exuma and had already successfully borne fruit.<sup>20</sup>

On November 1, Superintendent Alexander Anderson wrote to Banks to inform him that he was assembling specimens of every useful plant for the Nassau garden—he had 100 boxes already—and that he thought the plants would do well since native Bahamian plants appeared to thrive in St. Vincent. As Banks was the principal support behind the garden, Anderson assured his patron that he would obey his every command.<sup>21</sup> In fact, the ultimate failure of this attempt to establish a garden in the Bahamas was due in part to Anderson's eagerness to execute Banks's orders as quickly and as efficiently as possible, as shall be seen further along.

Back at the St. Vincent garden, the collecting progressed and by mid-January, 1799, Anderson had filled 300 boxes.<sup>22</sup> Walker had finally found an appropriate ship to carry the plants to Nassau, and he wrote to Chalmers to let him know he planned to leave by the end of April. He also expressed the hope that the

government of the Bahamas would reimburse the £500 freight charge, as it was coming out of his own pocket.<sup>23</sup> But on April 4, as Walker was making final preparations to leave with the plants, Governor Dowdeswell in Nassau was in the process of writing a letter informing him that the legislature had not yet voted funds to provide for the garden, and that nothing could be done on that score until that body met again in November, seven months away. Dowdeswell asked Walker not to make any delivery until he was informed that a garden and a gardener had been provided to take care of the plants.<sup>24</sup>

The letters crossed in the mail, and on May 8th, 466 plants, trees, and shrubs packed in 185 boxes, tubs, and kegs, left St. Vincent in the company of William Walker on board the armed schooner *Lord Duncan*.<sup>25</sup> Two days later, obviously knowing nothing of Walker's departure, Dowdeswell wrote to Chalmers in London to tell him that nothing had yet been done about preparing for a garden in Nassau. He thanked both Chalmers and Banks for their efforts, but confided that he really didn't think the project was going to succeed, a prophecy that was soon to be fulfilled.<sup>26</sup>

In mid-May Chalmers in London, having received Walker's letter announcing his imminent departure from St. Vincent to Nassau with the plants (but not yet Dowdeswell's letter saying that Nassau was unprepared to receive the delivery), wrote to congratulate Walker on his success in acquiring a boat: "Sir Joseph Banks is pleased with the attention of Mr. Anderson, the king's gardener, and very much gratified to think, that he had been instrumental, in doing much good." He mentioned that he had sent Banks' plan for the garden to Dowdeswell and assured Walker that he would have no difficulty being reimbursed for the ship's hire since the Bahamas were doing so well financially, an odd comment since all the letters sent by his constituents in the islands complained of dire economic crisis.<sup>27</sup> So, while Governor Dowdeswell was sending messages to St. Vincent and London that Nassau was not ready to receive the shipment of plants, London and St. Vincent, unaware of the problem in the Bahamas, were trying their best to get the plants to Nassau as quickly as possible, for Anderson, Walker, and Chalmers were all interested in

demonstrating to Banks their willingness to support and carry out his wishes in a timely fashion. A letter from Dowdeswell to Chalmers dated the end of May tends to support this picture of enthusiastic effort at cross purposes, a problem exacerbated, if not created, by the slowness of eighteenth-century communications.<sup>28</sup>

### **BANKS' GARDEN PLAN**

Sir Joseph Banks, British naturalist and President of the Royal Society of London (1778-1820), had accompanied Captain James Cook's three-year voyage (1768-1771) in the *Endeavour*. Soon after the founding of the nine-acre Kew Gardens by the Princess of Wales in 1761, Banks became the chief influence in inaugurating and directing the policies that made the Royal Botanical Gardens an important center for the encouragement of botanical exploration and experimentation. Although Banks' plans for gardens in the West Indies were perhaps based on his working knowledge of the botanical gardens at Kew, they were strongly influenced as well by information he received from correspondents in the field. In 1787 the British East India Company had established a garden in Calcutta, and knowledge of Indian agricultural practices clearly figures in item three of Banks's plan for the Nassau garden. The garden plan for the Bahamas developed by Banks was also based in part on a questionnaire about the establishment of the St. Vincent garden supplied by General Melville, who had been governor of St. Vincent in 1765. In question and answer format Melville, a determined promoter and supporter of the garden, described for Chalmers and Banks details of its beginnings, focusing primarily on matters of financial support and administration--(1) How large is the garden? Between twenty and thirty acres, seventeen of which are now under cultivation. (2) How many laborers are required? Sixteen and one Assistant (3) What is the salary of the Superintendent and the Assistant? Twenty shillings a day for the Superintendent and five shillings a day for the Assistant. (4) Was additional money allocated for travel and contingencies? Yes, on a case-by-case basis.<sup>29</sup>

This was the information that provided the foundation for Banks' own "Plan for a Botanic Garden in the Bahamas," which appears to have been sent to Governor Dowdeswell in Nassau in February, 1799:

"(1) The size of a botanic garden, in a West India Island, should be from 4 to 10 acres. Two or four of them should be kept in continual garden culture, for the purpose of increasing exotic and useful plants for delivery to individuals, under the orders of government, and cultivating such native plants as may be from time to time to be sent to the Royal Garden at Kew in exchange for useful plants of the East Indies; and sent from thence to the Bahamas.

(2) The remainder should be considered as an orchard, where exotic fruit trees may come to their full growth for the purpose of yielding fruit for the Governor's table, if thought proper, and of furnishing grafts and branches, for circumcision of the most valuable sorts.

(3) The soil should be various and a brook should pass through it for the purpose of experiments of all kinds, and irrigation, and particularly, for trying experiments on the watering of cotton trees from the time of their flowering till the seed is nearly ripe, a practice which is said to increase the crop in quantity, and improve it in quality very materially.<sup>30</sup>

(4) The gardener should have a salary of 100 Guineas [not shillings] a year, and a house built for him in the garden; he should have furniture for himself, and a negro wench allowed him to dress his victuals, clean his house, &c., if hereafter he should marry he will have saved money, and be able to purchase such additional furniture and slaves, as will become necessary.

(5) To cultivate the garden a gang of negroes and a driver must be allowed

proportioned in number to the size of it, and the quantity of land kept in garden cultivation. The orchard will require little expense in keeping it up, except for gathering the crop of fruit, and preserving the branches."<sup>31</sup>

## CONCLUSION

At the end of June, 1799, the newspaperman John Wells<sup>32</sup> reported to George Chalmers that "Mr. Walker brought the plants from St. Vincent in [good] order. As there was not any public garden prepared for their reception here they have been [distributed] through the islands to planters who would attend to them."<sup>33</sup> But the epitaph on the venture was most eloquently pronounced by William Walker from his estate on Exuma a year later. In a letter to General Melville dated June 24, 1800, he wrote: "By order of Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. Anderson got ready about 500 exotic trees & plants for this colony from an application by the legislature thro their agent Mr. Chalmers in London (Secretary to the Board of Trade) who wrote to me requesting I would fall on a mode of conveyance, and being then concerned in an armed schooner bound to Shelbourne I prevailed with the other owners to let her call here on my engaging to pay the freight of about 200 boxes (which caused a loss of the freight of about 40 puncheons of rum to Shelbourne) having Genl. Triggs leave I took charge of the plants and came down in her myself--after a long passage I delivered all safe and in high order except 3 or 4--but notwithstanding I had a letter from Gov. Dowdeswell regarding them there was neither a public garden nor gardener to receive them. They were put into a private one and I doubt few are now alive. And when I applied to the legislature to be reimbursed the expense, I was paid short near £400 which with other misfortunes attending that vessel together with bad crops I have sunk more money this last year than I can well spare--however, thank God, I have good health & good spirits yet."<sup>34</sup>

The story ends here, with the orphaned plants being distributed to whomever would agree to take them. How wide or narrow was this geographic dispersal, and how successful or unsuccessful the adoptive planters were at

keeping the plants alive cannot be known with certainty.

### CODA

In an attempt to ascertain the Bahamian distribution for plants shipped from St. Vincent to the Bahamas on the schooner Lord Duncan in 1799, we compared currently known flora and localities with the original group of plants sent to Nassau. We then constructed a list (Table 1), which tabulates our results.

The first column of Table 1 lists plant family names in block letters and within each family provides current scientific names<sup>35</sup> (in italics), followed by authority if known (i.e., *Magnifera indica* L.). A question mark following the scientific name indicates a best guess about which plant was sent. A genus name followed by sp. means we did not determine which species was shipped. We used Hortus Third as our primary source for assigning names to cultivated species, and our bibliography includes full references for all sources we used to update scientific plant names.<sup>36</sup> Beneath each scientific name, in parentheses, we provide the original plant name (or synonym) used in 1799. Scientific names on the original list do not include the authority, although it is plausible that many of those names were taken from Linnaeus' Species Plantarum, first published in 1753. Plant systematists have long considered his volumes as the foundation for the modern system of botanical nomenclature.

The second column lists common names as designated from either the original 1799 plant list or from one of our current sources (see bibliography). We followed Guilding's 1825 listing in Catalogue of Plants in His Majesty's Botanical Garden in St. Vincent to ascertain the economic use for each plant listed in column three. Economic uses in this column are abbreviated as follows: medicinal (M), fruit (F), commercial and medicinal (C & M), economic (Ec), and esculent [edible vegetable] (Es). An "N" indicates no economic use was specified. A "U" in the fourth column signifies that no quantities were provided for the plants shipped to the Bahamas in 1799.

Assigning plant localities for the Bahamas was the most difficult part of our task because there are few accounts for cultivated plant distributions throughout these islands. Correll and Correll (1982), the most current flora for the Bahamas, only emphasizes distributions for naturalized species. We use Correll's plant distribution numbers (i.e., 1-10) in the localities column, but it should be noted that their plant localities represent more than one island area. Therefore, we added island localities for cultivated plants in the Bahamas based on personal knowledge of these islands. Letters in the locality column indicate that we observed the plant growing on New Providence (NP) and San Salvador (SS) or Dr. Robert Smith (1993) reported that these cultivated plants were found on San Salvador (SS). An "X" in the current locality column indicates that we have not found a current distribution for this species. The last column gives the plant number on the original 1799 plant list.

As we find additional literature sources for plant species names we plan to compile a more complete and updated table. We hope readers will assist us by confirming and resolving additional plant localities in the islands of the Bahamas. We would appreciate your reviewing our table and notifying us of any additions, comments and corrections. After receiving your reports we plan to incorporate the data into a revised table and publish it in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> In the mid-nineteenth century John Carter Brown (1797-1874) began avid pursuit of books on the subject of Americana. His son, John Nicholas Brown (1861-1900) actively continued this tradition and before his untimely death in 1900 had conceived of giving the Library to the world of historical research as a memorial to his father. The John Carter Brown Library, an independently administered and funded center for advanced research in the humanities, has been located at Brown University since 1901.

<sup>2</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*, New York, Macmillan, 1885, X, 445-446

<sup>3</sup> John Carter Brown Library catalogue number Codex/Eng 77/2-size, hereafter referred to as the Chalmers Papers. These chronologically arranged manuscript papers are in several hands, although the materials dated before Chalmers took the post of agent in 1792 appear to be later secretarial copies. A microfilm copy of the Papers is in the Archive in Nassau.

<sup>4</sup> We would like to acknowledge Banks historian John Gascoigne, who focused Susan Danforth's attention on the garden material in the Chalmers Papers when he made a research visit to the John Carter Brown Library in December, 2000.

<sup>5</sup> DNB, III, 129-33. Banks has been the subject of many studies over the years, but see recent works by John Gascoigne, *Joseph Banks and the English Enlightenment*, London, Cambridge University Press, 1994, and *Science in the Service of Empire*, London, Cambridge University Press, 1998.

<sup>6</sup> Chalmers Papers III, leaf 102.

<sup>7</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaves 26, 82.

<sup>8</sup> There were a few instances of sporadic interest and support from other countries in the late eighteenth century. Martin Sessé proposed a garden for Havana, Cuba, in 1784 but transferred his plan to Mexico City when his commander, Bernardo de Galvez, became Viceroy of New Spain in 1785. The garden was opened in 1788 and survived until about 1829. (Iris Engstrand, *Spanish naturalists in Cuba and the West Indies, 1785-1800*. Paper delivered at the Forum for European Expansion and Global Interaction (FEEGI) Conference, Spring, 2000. Julius Von Rohr was sent by the Danish government to St. Croix in 1757. Along with his duties as land surveyor and building inspector, Von Rohr studied the natural history of the island and established a botanical garden there. By 1777 he was sending plants to Joseph Banks in London. (Daniel Hopkins, *A colonial scientist, the end of the slave trade, and the colonization of West Africa*. Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, 1998.)

<sup>9</sup> James E. McClellan III, *Colonialism and Science*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins, 1992, 151-154.

<sup>10</sup> Lansdown Guilding, *An Account of the Botanic Garden in the Island of St. Vincent*, Glasgow: Richard Griffin & company, 1825.

<sup>11</sup> Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago.

<sup>12</sup> Alexander Anderson, botanist, was a longtime correspondent of Joseph Banks and collected botanical and natural history specimens for him. The best sketch of his interesting life is provided by Richard A. Howard in the introduction to *Flora of the Lesser Antilles*, Jamaica Plain, MA, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, 1988, Part I, vol. 4.

<sup>13</sup> John Murray, Fourth Earl of Dunmore (1732-1809), the last royal governor of Virginia, fled in 1775 at the outbreak of the Revolution. He remained sporadically employed until he received the appointment as governor of the Bahamas in 1787. Notoriously corrupt, he was recalled to London in 1796 and, in spite of several requests to be allowed to return to the Bahamas, died in Scotland in 1809. DNB, XXXIX, 388, and Michael Craton, *A History of the Bahamas*, London, Collins, 1962, 173-186.

<sup>14</sup> Craton, *Bahamas, 163-170*

<sup>15</sup> William Dowdeswell (1761-1828) received his appointment as governor of the Bahamas in 1797, arriving to take his post in 1798. His was not a long tenure. By 1802 he was in India as private secretary to the British governor of Madras. DNB, XV, 386. Craton, *Bahamas*, 305.

<sup>16</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 29.

<sup>17</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaves, 26, 27

<sup>18</sup> *The Anglo-French War of 1793-1815*.

<sup>19</sup> William Bligh (1754-1817), called "breadfruit Bligh" by his colleagues in the navy, is associated today primarily with the mutiny of his crew on the *Bounty* during his first attempt to transport breadfruit from the Pacific to the West Indies. He was awarded a gold medal by the Society of Arts for his successful voyage in the *Providence*, 1791-1793. DNB, V, 219-220.

<sup>20</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 82.

<sup>21</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaves 32, 33.

<sup>22</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 82. Addendum, January 14, 1799.

<sup>23</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 47.

<sup>24</sup> Chalmers Papers, III leaf 49.

<sup>25</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaves 76, 77.

<sup>26</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 51.

<sup>27</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 52.

<sup>28</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 61.

<sup>29</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 45.

<sup>30</sup> In another letter (*Chalmers Papers*, III, leaf 105) Banks attributes similar suggestions on the cultivation and irrigation of cotton to the practices of farmers in Gujurat, India.

<sup>31</sup> Chalmers Papers, III, leaf 102.

<sup>32</sup> John Wells, a loyalist émigré from Charleston, South Carolina, published a paper in East Florida before migrating to Nassau in 1784. There he was publisher of the *Bahama Gazette*, the islands' first newspaper. Craton, *Bahamas*, 305.

<sup>33</sup> *Chalmers Papers*, III, leaf 78.

<sup>34</sup> *Chalmers Papers*, III, leaf 104.

<sup>35</sup> Scientific names and common names for most cultivated plants listed may be found in *Hortus Third* (Liberty Hyde Bailey Horotorium Staff 1976). See bibliography for additional sources used to update scientific plant names.

<sup>36</sup> Correll and Correll (1982) generally only list plants and their distributions for horticultural varieties that have been cultivated and escaped or naturalized in the Bahamas.

Table 1. List of plants put on the Schooner Lord Duncan for the Government of the Bahamas. May 8th. 1799. Plants are listed alphabetically by family and current scientific name. Names in parentheses are the synonyms used in 1799. Columns that follow list the common names, economic uses, quantity shipped, current known localities, and placement number on the 1799 plant list (see text for details).

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Economic use</u>	<u>Quantity shipped</u>	<u>Current locality</u>	<u>Original list #</u>
ACANTHACEAE <i>Justicia</i> sp. ( <i>Justicia pectoralis</i> )		M	U	X	44
ANACARDIACEAE <i>Mangifera indica</i> L. ( <i>Mangifera indica</i> )	Mango	F	4	8, SS	9
<i>Spondias cytherea</i> Sonn. ( <i>Spondias dulcis</i> )	Otaheite apple Otaheite apple	F	9	X	14
AQUIFOLIACEAE <i>Ilex vomatoria</i> Ait. ( <i>Ilex vomatoria</i> )	Cassine tea	M	U	X	43
ARISTOLOCHIACEAE <i>Aristolochia</i> sp. ( <i>Aristolochia odoratissima</i> )		C. & M	U	X	50
ASCLEPIADACEAE <i>Asclepias</i> sp. ( <i>Asclepias asthmatica</i> )		C & M	U	X	45
APOCYNACEAE <i>Allamanda cathartica</i> L. ( <i>Allamanda cathartica</i> )	Golden trumpet, common allamanda	M	U	X	52

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Economic use</u>	<u>Quantity shipped</u>	<u>Current locality</u>	<u>Original list #</u>
<b>BIGNONIACEAE</b> <i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i> (D.C.) Britt.? ( <i>Bignonia ophthalmica</i> )		M	3	6	42
<b>BOMBACACEAE</b> <i>Pachira aquatica</i> (L.) Aubl. ( <i>Carolinea princeps</i> )	Shaving brush tree?			X	
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b> <i>Cordia</i> sp. [ <i>Cordia cochelinerifera</i> ?] ( <i>Cordia dichotoma</i> )	Otaheite dye Oralchic dye	N	4	X	24
<b>CACTACEAE</b> <i>Opuntia cochenillifera</i> (L.) Mill. ( <i>Cactus cochelinerifera</i> )	Opuntia	E	5	9, 8, 4, 3	28
<b>COMBRETACEAE</b> <i>Terminalia catappa</i> L. ( <i>Terminalia catapa</i> )	Indian almond	C & M	U		51
<b>CONVOLVULACEAE</b> <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam. ( <i>Convolvulus batatas</i> )	Sweet potato [Sweet potato] best kind	F	8	11, 10, 9, 8, 6, 5	15
<b>CYCADACEAE</b> <i>Cycas circinalis</i> L. ( <i>Cycas circinalis</i> )	Sago palm	Es	6	10, 9, 8, 6, 5	35
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b> <i>Aleurites moluccana</i> (L.) Willd. ( <i>Aleurites triloba</i> ) <i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> (L.) Skeels ( <i>Cicca disticha</i> )	Candlenut Nuts esculent Otaheite goosberry	N	23	X	8
		F	4	X	13
		F	17	SS	30

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GRAMINEAE <i>Andropogon [virginicus] L.?</i> ( <i>Andropogon Schoenanthus</i> )	Fever grass <sup>1</sup> , Broom sedge	M	2	10, 9, 8, 5	38
Lauraceae <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> (L.) J. Presl. ( <i>Laurus cinnamomum</i> ) <i>Laurus cassia?</i> (Nees) Ness & Eberm. ex Blume ( <i>Laurus cassia</i> )	Camphor tree Cassia-bark tree or Chinese cinnamon	C & M C & M	58 16	X X	5 6
LEGUMINOSEAE <i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Delile ( <i>Mimosa nilotica</i> ) <i>Copaifera officinalis</i> (Jacq.) L. ( <i>Capaifera officinalis</i> ) <i>Inocarpus fagifer</i> (Parkinson) Fosh. ( <i>Inocarpus edulis</i> )	Gum-arabic tree Copal O'taheite chestnut	C & M C & M F	10 10 5	6 X X	18 16 11
LILIACEAE <i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill. ( <i>Aloe perfoliata</i> )	Aloe	C & M	4	X	25
MALVACEAE <i>Gossypium [barbadense L. ?]</i> ( <i>Bourbon cotton</i> )	Cotton	N	2	X	40
MARANTACEAE <i>Maranta arundinacea</i> L. ( <i>Maranata arundinacea</i> )	Arrowroot	Ec	2	X	27
MENISPERMACEAE <i>Cissampelos pareira</i> L. ( <i>Cissampelos pareira</i> )	False pareira	M	U	X	49

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MORACEAE					
<i>Artocarpus altifilis</i> (Parkins) Fosb. ( <i>Artocarpus incisus</i> ) <i>Artocarpus sp.</i> ( <i>Artocarpus incisus</i> ) <i>Artocarpus sp.</i> ( <i>Artocarpus incisus</i> ) ( <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam. ( <i>Artocarpus integrifolius</i> . Icca.) <i>Dorstenia contrajerva</i> L. ( <i>Dorstenia contrajerva</i> )	Breadfruit Otaheite breadfruit Breadfruit Breadfruit from Timor Breadfruit Malabar chestnut Jackfruit Contra hierba	Es Es N F C & M	134 3 25 13 1	NP X X X X	1 2 3 4 41
MUSACEAE					
<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L. [ <i>acuminata</i> Colla?] ( <i>Musa a Otaheite</i> )	Banana [Banana] two kinds	Es	2	NP, SS	37
MYRISTICACEAE					
<i>Myristica fragrans</i> Houtt. ( <i>Myristica americana</i> )	Nutmeg	Ec	6	X	21
MYRTACEAE					
<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> . (L.) Merrill & L. M. Perry ( <i>Caryophyllus aromaticus</i> )	Cloves	C & M	3	X	7
<i>Syzygium malaccense</i> (L.) Merrill & L. M. Perry ( <i>Eugenia malaccensis</i> )	Malay apple	F	9	X	10
OLEACEAE					
<i>Olea europaea</i> L. ( <i>Olea europaea</i> )	Common olive	C & M	6	X	23

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ORCHIDACEAE <i>Vanilla</i> sp. [ <i>V. planifolia</i> Andr. ?] ( <i>Epidendrum vanilla</i> )	Vanilla?	C & M	6	SS	34
OXALIDACEAE <i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i> L. ( <i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i> )	Cucumber tree	F	3	X	31
PALMAE <i>Areca catechu</i> L. ( <i>Areca catechu</i> )	Betel nut	N	3	X	32
PIPERACEAE <i>Piper nigrum</i> L. ( <i>Piper nigrum</i> ?) <i>Piper betle</i> L. ([ <i>Piper</i> ] <i>betle</i> ) <i>Piper</i> sp. ([ <i>Piper</i> ] <i>longum</i> )	Black pepper Betel leaf	C & M C & M C & M	U U U	X X X	46 47 48
ROSACEAE <i>Prunus</i> sp. ( <i>Prunus noyeanii</i> )		Ec	1	X	39
RUBIACEAE <i>Cinchona</i> sp. ( <i>Chindona cymosa</i> )	Quinine?	C & M	3	X	26
RUTACEAE <i>Jambolifera pedunculata</i> L. or <i>Acronychia pedunculata</i> (L.) Miq. ( <i>Jambolifera pedunculata</i> )		F	13	X	12



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SAPINDACEAE <i>Blighia sapida</i> K. König ( <i>Sapindus edulis</i> )	Achee, Akee Letchee?	N	4	X	29
SIMAROUBACEAE <i>Quassia amara</i> L. ( <i>Quasia amara</i> ) <i>Simarouba glauca</i> D.C.? ( <i>Quasia semarouba</i> )	Bitterwood  Paradise tree?	C & M  C & M	7  1	X  10, 9, 8	17  33
TACCACEAE <i>Tacca ontopetaloides</i> (L.) O. Kuntze ( <i>Tacca pinnatifida</i> )	Arrowroot	Es	U	X	53
THEACEAE <i>Camellia</i> sp. ( <i>Thea [critides?]</i> )	Tea, camellia	N	6	X	22
VERBENACEAE <i>Tectona grandis</i> L. f. ( <i>Tektonia grandis</i> )	Teak	N	3	X	20
ZINGIBERACEAE <i>Curcuma domestica</i> Val. ( <i>Curcuma longa</i> ) <i>Kaempferia galanga</i> L. ( <i>Khempferia galenga</i> )	Turmeric  Galangal	C & M  C & M	2  3	X  X	19  36