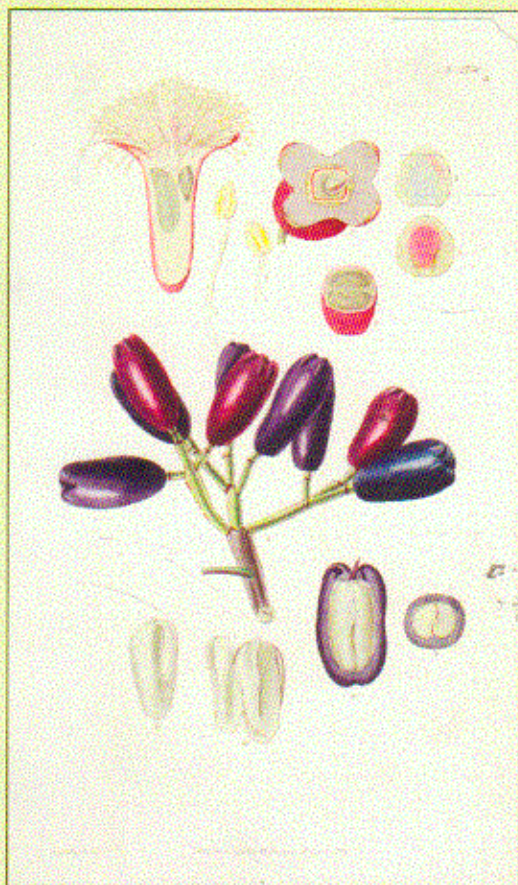




*The Botany of Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century* investigates the cultural, economic, and political significance of plants in a time of rapid and groundbreaking developments. The eighteenth century witnessed widespread exploration, growing trade in botanical specimens, new scientific agendas, taxonomic breakthroughs, and horticultural experimentation. The complex relationship between natural history and empire in this period calls for a sweepingly comparative approach. The chapters in this volume reach beyond Europe and the Atlantic to encompass powers that had no overseas colonial possessions—

such as the Russian, Ottoman, and Qing empires and the Tokugawa shogunate—as well as politically borderline regions such as South Africa, Yemen, and New Zealand. Viewed as a whole, this picture takes us away from a mechanistic perception of how empires functioned, and highlights a broader range of actors (both complicit and resistant) and factors that influenced imperial practices of natural history. Above all, this richly illustrated volume is deeply informed by material culture, from the practicalities of acquiring and transporting botanical specimens to the stunning variety of publications that documented local and foreign floras. Objects that had previously been seen as rare or exotic, from hothouse plants to illustrated books, became increasingly known, desired, and trafficked.