

History and Reputation (Translation from; Knox, Robert *An Historical Relation of the Island Ceylon in the East Indies*, London, 1681.)

“The Cinnamon Tree. I proceed to the third Tree, which is the *Cinnamon*, in their Language *Corunda-gauhah*. It grows wild in the Woods as other Trees, and by them no more esteemed; It is most on the West side of the great River *Mavela-gonga*. It is much as plenty as *Hazel* in *England* in some places a great deal, in some little, and in some none at all. The Trees are not very great, but sizable. The *Cinnamon* is the The Bark. Bark or Rind, when it is on the Tree it looks whitish. They scrape it and pull it off and dry it in the Sun: they take it onely from off the smaller Trees, altho the Bark of the greater is as sweet to the smell and as strong to the tast. The The Wood. Wood has no smell, in colour white, and soft like *Fir*. Which for any use they cut down, favouring them no more than other wild Trees in the Wood. The The Leaf. Leaf much resembleth the *Laurel* both in colour and thickness; the difference is, whereas the *Laurel* hath but one strait rib throughout, whereon the green spreads it self on each sides, the *Cinnamon* hath three by which the Leaf stretches forth it self. When the young leaves come out they look purely red like scarlet: Break or bruise them, and they will smell more like *Cloves* than *Cinnamon*. It bears a The Fruit. Fruit, which is ripe in *September*, much like an *Acorn*, but smaller, it neither tastes nor smells much like the Bark, but being boyled in water, it will yield an Oyl swimming on the top, which when cold is as hard as tallow and as white; and smelleth excellently well. They use it for Oyntments for Aches and Pains, and to burn in Lamps to give light in their houses: but they make no Candles of it, neither are any Candles used by any but the King.

Here are many sorts of Trees that bear *Berries* to make *Oyl* of, both in the Woods and Gardens, but not eatable, but used only for their Lamps.

There are other Trees remarkable either for their *strangeness*, or *use*, or both. Of these I shall mention a few.”