



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
January 31, 1963

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul,

Your three *Cedrela* wood specimens arrived here about ten days ago, and I have just had the opportunity to examine and compare them with our specimens. Before telling you of my findings, for the record, let me list the comparison of *Cedrela* species as treated by C. E. Smith and by P. C. Standley in Flora of Guatemala.

Smith

odorata
angustifolia
caxacensis

Standley

longipes and mexicana
imparipinnata and pacayana
salvadorensis

The two, dark colored, figured specimens you submitted most closely match our specimen of *C. odorata*; the single, light colored, straight grained specimen most closely matches our specimens of *C. mexicana*. If we agree with Smith, then I suspect both types of *Cedrela* you sent represent materials from the same species, the external differences perhaps depending upon climatic or edaphic variation in situ.

As you are doubtlessly aware, the only definitive solution to the problem, is to see herbarium vouchers. I could not distinguish among these three specimens anatomically, nor could I tell my comparative specimens apart anatomically. Differences in grain, figure, and color, I suspect, are at least in part influenced by the conditions of growth, and even by position within the tree. To a certain extent, this is similarly true for anatomical characteristics, and for gross morphological features also.

This does not help you very much, but perhaps it may stimulate you to secure vouchers. I hope it does--if so, I will do my best to have them identified.

- 2 -

In a few days I will be off to Panama--to the fossil fields around Ocu, in particular. If you happen to be in the vicinity, stop in to say, hola! Please give my best to Dorothy.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

William L. Stern
Curator
Division of Plant Anatomy

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
September 26, 1962

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul,

I appreciate your letter of September 19 and the determination of your 6016, Tachigalia versicolor. I have inserted this in your list.

My wife Flory and I would like very much to have you and Dorothy to dinner at our home when you visit here next month. It is possible that we will be away during one weekend, so please let us know your plans as soon as they have been crystallized.

I am enclosing a popular article on plant collecting which I wrote several years ago. Perhaps you might wish to forward it to your Engineering Department. Maybe they can engineer some herbarium vouchers for us.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

William L. Stern
Curator
Division of Woods

Enclosure

Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras -
September 19, 1962

Dr. William L. Stern
Curator, Division of Woods
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

Your kind comments and suggestions on Cedrela in our area have been passed on to the Engineering Department, with a few simple pointers on the collection of herbarium vouchers. It remains to be seen whether we will hear anything further on this, but I do appreciate your help.

My 6016 was a sterile specimen of what I took to be Tachigalia versicolor Standl. & E. Wms. and is cited on page 337 of my Costarican opus. I am far from sure that this is correctly placed or that Standley & Williams novelty is very good, but would appreciate anything you can eventually tell me about the woods that will tend to confirm or refute the present listing.

I am glad to know where Smith is, since I had lost track of him after he left Chicago. I have already ordered a copy of his treatment of Cedrela from the Chicago Natural History Museum, and should have it here in due course.

Have just had a phone call from Boston asking me to check on some early banana records in Washington when up on leave next month, so I may see you again in the relatively near future. Dorothy joins me until then in warmest regards.

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
September 11, 1962

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul,

I have in front of me your letters of July 28 and September 2, and I am hastening to answer them since I have just returned from a trip to our West Coast. First please accept my personal thanks for the box of wood specimens which arrived here during my absence and for which a list of species is included in your July 28 letter. There certainly is no need for you to feel apologetic because of the size and condition of the specimens. Most of these actually are large enough for us to cut duplicate material which we will distribute on exchange. We checked the specimens against your list and find only a single discrepancy: There is no specimen 6016 on your list. Will you please tell me what species is represented by this number? When I have had the opportunity to catalogue this material, you will receive a formal letter acknowledging this gift from the Director of our Museum of Natural History.

Concerning the question of the two types of Cedrela which you expect come from the hills near Santa Barbara, I have little faith in my ability to distinguish them from the wood. As you know, most woods are not distinguishable as to species. Nevertheless, I shall examine them and give you my opinion.

I have in front of me C. E. Smith's revision of Cedrela which appeared in Fieldiana in December 1960. Also, I have a copy of Standley and Steyermark's Flora of Guatemala. Apparently, you do not have Smith's revision, for in it are three species of Cedrela which also occur in Standley and Steyermark's works, but under different names. Cedrela odorata L. of Smith includes C. longipes Blake of Standley and Steyermark. Cedrela angustifolia Sessé & Moc. of Smith includes C. imparipinnata C. DC. of Standley and Steyermark. Cedrela oaxacensis C. DC. & Rose of Smith includes C. salvadorensis of Standley and Steyermark. I also find that Smith includes Cedrela mexicana under Cedrela odorata and C. pacayana Harms under C. angustifolia. In summary, Smith includes only three species from Guatemala: C. odorata, C. angustifolia and C. oaxacensis.

Perhaps this bit of information will help you in separating the types of Cedrela with which you are concerned. Smith is now working in Beltsville

and is a frequent visitor to the herbarium here. Therefore, in case you should be able to obtain herbarium specimens from the cedrelas in question, I would suggest that you send them directly to me and I will ask Dr. Smith to give them his critical eye. Also, if you so indicate, I will ask him to send you a copy of his revision.

Please give my very best regards to your good wife whose company I did so enjoy on our trip to the rain forest and Blanchisseuse.

Cordially,

Bill

William L. Stern
Curator
Division of Woods

Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras
September 2, 1962

Dr. William L. Stern, Curator
Division of Woods
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

I have recently had a request for information from our Engineering Department in La Lima as to the specific identity of two types of Gedrela which they receive in commercial shipments from the interior of the country. No botanical vouchers are available for either, unfortunately, nor is there even any very definite locality other than that they both probably come from the hills near Santa Barbara.

These specimens of the two types are being sent to you under separate cover, and you will note that two of the pieces are alike, and somewhat darker in color than the other, and that the figure is considerably more pronounced in these than in the single clear-grained piece.

My usual resort in cases of this type is to consult Standley & Steyermark in their Flora of Guatemala, but find that not one of the five species of Gedrela listed by them as occurring in Guatemala appears in C. Earle Smith's provisional key to the American species, which I have had, without accompanying text, in my files for some time.

It would be very much appreciated if you would be willing to venture an opinion on these, but realize that I may be asking the impossible.

We hope that your summer in Europe has been a pleasant and profitable one, and that we may meet again in the near future. Dorothy joins me in warmest regards.

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen

cc - Dr. W. G. C. Forsyth
Mr. P. T. Stubbe

TELA RAILROAD COMPANY

Material & Supply Dept.
Tela, Honduras
August 13, 1962

Mr. C. R. Westphal:

On the S/S Majorca, from Tela, on 8/9/62, on B/L T-52
we have forwarded one case containing sample wood specimens.

The above mentioned was forwarded at the request of Mr.
Paul Allen of the Research Department, and, as shown on the Commercial
Invoice, is to be forwarded to:

U.S. Dispatch Agent
45 Broadway
New York City

For: Smithsonian Institution
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.
Attention: Dr. William L. Stern, Curator
Division of Woods

Kindly have forwarded as above.

Yours very truly,

M. L. Esquivel
M. L. Esquivel
1962

cc: Mr. Paul Allen ✓
Shipping Clerk

FRS:ec

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
August 2, 1962

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Tela Railroad Company
Lancetilla, Honduras

Dear Dr. Allen:

Your letter of July 28, 1962 and list of wood specimens from Central America dated July 27, 1962 have been received this date. Dr. Stern is abroad and will be back sometime towards the middle of September. I shall call your letter to his attention immediately upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

Anita L. Brooks
(Mrs.) Anita Brooks
Secretary
Division of Woods

TELA RAILROAD COMPANY
MATERIAL & SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

TELA, HONDURAS

Date August 6, 1962

Exportation Dept. - Tela
~~Cartes~~

Enclosed are the following documents:

Commercial Invoice #62069	- Original & <u>7</u> Copies
Consular Invoice	- Original & _____ "
Packing List	- _____ "
In Transit Shipment Memo	- Original & _____ "
Certification of Origin	- Original & _____ "
Form #128	- _____ "

Shipment consisting of:

1 Case No. T-20 Containing: SAMPLES WOOD SPECIMENS

(MUESTRAS DE MADERA)

All charges: (54300500920000)

Forwarded per S/S HAJERIA

Date 8/7/62

to NEW YORK

Via _____

Requisition # _____

Transfer # _____

cc: Mr. C. R. Westphal - New York

Mr. W. G. C. Forayth - Lima

Mr. Paul Allen
Shipping Clerk

W. L. Searns
Superintendent

Tela, Honduras, August 6 19 62To. United Fruit Company - New York - N.Y. - USA

Attn. Mr. C.R. Westphal, Pier 2, North River, New York 4, N.Y.-USA

TELA RAILROAD COMPANY

Number	Qty	Description									
T-20	1	<p>Case: Containing SAMPLES Wood Specimens for scientific study</p> <p>(NO COMMERCIAL VALUE)</p> <p>(This case is to be consigned to U.S. Despatch Agent 45 Broadway New York City For: Smithsonian Institution U.S. National Museum Washington, D.C. Attention: Dr. William L. Stern, Curator Division of Woods,)</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th><u>DIMENSIONS</u></th> <th colspan="2"><u>GROSS WEIGHT</u></th> </tr> <tr> <td>16" x 17" x 34"</td> <th><u>Pounds</u></th> <th><u>Kilos</u></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>112</td> <td>51</td> </tr> </thead></table> <p><u>M A R K S</u></p> <p>U. F. Co. H.M. 1001</p> <p>I, F.R. Sullivan do solemnly and truly declare that the merchandise herein specified are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, truly and bona fide of the growth (or production or manufacture) of HONDURAS that these are being forwarded to USA, to be used for laboratory tests, for scientific purposes only. TELA RAILROAD COMPANY</p> <p>By <u><i>F. R. Sullivan</i></u> F. R. Sullivan</p>	<u>DIMENSIONS</u>	<u>GROSS WEIGHT</u>		16" x 17" x 34"	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Kilos</u>		112	51
<u>DIMENSIONS</u>	<u>GROSS WEIGHT</u>										
16" x 17" x 34"	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Kilos</u>									
	112	51									

Tela, Honduras
July 28, 1962

Dr. William L. Stern, Curator
Division of Woods
Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

This is intended as a note of thanks for the very interesting reprint on plant collecting in Darien, an area that I used to know fairly well some twenty years ago, and to confirm shipment of a wooden box containing the small lot of wood specimens described to you during our recent pleasant time together in Trinidad. I am afraid you may find this batch rather scrappy, since it consists of rough chips and small pieces, but it is hoped that this considerable defect may be partly offset by the fact that all bear serial numbers correlated with herbarium vouchers that are available to you there. All but four of these woods are cited in the "Rain Forests of Golfo Dulce", which will give you exact localities, should these be needed.

A few of these things, such as Ceiba pentandra, Spondias mombin and Simouba glauca are too common to be of any interest, but may be offset by other such as Pentaplaris, Humbriastrum, Vantanea, Couratari, Basiloxylon and Huberodendron. Pentaplaris in particular, has never been placed with any certainty as to family, so that it might be worth while to see whether you agree with its tentative position in the Tiliaceae.

When I conveyed your regards to De Richardson he said "Sure I know him. He's a real live wire." I am sure he will want to join Dorothy and myself in the hope that we may see you here in Honduras, and in warmest regards.

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen

cc - Dr. W. G. C. Forsyth

Tela, Honduras
July 27, 1962

ALLEN WOOD SPECIMENS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA - ALL BACKED BY HERBARIUM VOUCHERS IN
U.S. - MAJORITY CITED IN "RAIN FORESTS OF GOLFO DULCE".

Collection number	Scientific name	Family	Locality
5686	<i>Couratari panamensis</i>	Lecythidaceae	Golfo Dulce Area
5698	<i>Phyllocarpus septentrionalis</i>	Legumae	" " "
5804	<i>Guarea longpetiola</i>	Meliaceae	" " "
5812	<i>Humiriastrum diguense</i> subsp. (as <i>Saeoglottis excelsa</i>)	Humiriaceae	" " "
5830	<i>Tachigalia versicolor</i> ??	Legume	" " "
5850	<i>Lonchocarpus sericeus</i> var.	Legume	" " "
5857	<i>Idnociera panamensis</i>	Oleaceae	" " "
5859	<i>Spondias mombin</i>	Anacardiaceae	" " "
586 3	<i>Sterculia mexicana</i>	Sterculiaceae	" " "
5865	<i>Hieronyma tectissim</i>	Euphorbiaceae	" " "
5874	<i>Terminalia amazonia</i>	Combretaceae	" " "
5876	<i>Terminalia lucida</i>	"	" " "
5905	<i>Pouteria heterodoxa</i>	Sapotaceae	" " "
5906	<i>Guatteria lucens</i>	Annacaceae	" " "
5907	<i>Pouteria triplarifolia</i>	Sapotaceae	" " "
5908	<i>Diospyros ebanaster</i>	Ebenaceae	" " "
5912	<i>Caryocar costaricense</i>	Caryocaraceae	" " "
5917	<i>Talisia nervosa</i>	Sapindaceae	" " "
5961	<i>Pseudolmedia spuria</i>	Moraceae	" " "
5968	<i>Toxomitopsis grandifolia</i>	Guttigeriae	" " "
5971	<i>Latocarpus costaricensis</i>	Moraceae	" " "
5975	<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	Simaroubaceae	" " "
5981	<i>Hernandia didymantha</i>	Hernandiaceae	" " "
5982	<i>Billia colombiana</i>	Hippocastanaceae	" " "
5984	<i>Basiloxylon excelsum</i>	Sterculiaceae	" " "
5988	<i>Dussia cuscatlanica</i> (as <i>Dussia mexicana</i>)	Legume	" " "
6014	<i>Huberodendron Allenii</i>	Bombacaceae	" " "
6032	<i>Licania operculipetala</i>	Rosaceae	" " "
6040	<i>Lonchocarpus guatemalensis</i> (bark only)	Legume	" " "
6041	<i>Homalium eurypetalum</i>	Flacourtiaceae	" " "
6042	<i>Pithecolobium macradenium</i>	Legume	" " "
6096	<i>Pinus pseudostrobus</i>	Pinaceae	Honduras
6146	<i>Sideroxylon capiri</i>	Sapotaceae	"
6248	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Bombacaceae	Golfo Dulce Area
6250 & 6 251	<i>Vitex Cooperi</i>	Verbenaceae	" " "
6 256	<i>Vochysia Allenii</i>	Vochysiaceae	" " "
6259	<i>Theobroma angustifolium</i>	Sterculiaceae	" " "
6309	<i>Calycophyllum candidissimum</i>	Rubiaceae	" " "
6326	<i>Pentaplaris acrotene</i>	Tiliaceae ??	" " "
6454	<i>Alchornea latifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Honduras
6650	<i>Bernoullia flammae</i>	Bombacaceae	Panam (Armuellas)
6655	<i>Dussia macrophyllata</i>	Legume	Golfo Dulce Area
6657	<i>Casearia banquitana</i> var. <i>laevis</i>	Flacourtiaceae	" " "
6681	<i>Vantanea Barbourii</i>	Humiriaceae	" " "
6717	<i>Tachigalia versicolor</i> ??	Legume	" " "
6731	<i>Tabebuia chrysantha</i>	Bignoniaceae	" " "

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

To: Mr. F.S. Sullivan

Copy: Dr. W.G.C. Forsyth Date: July 27, 1962

From: Paul Allen

Place: Tela

Subject: Wood samples for shipment to the United States.

This will confirm our telephone conversation in regard to one wooden box containing wood specimens to be shipped to the United States. The box has been left unmarked, as you have suggested, but should bear the following address:

U.S. Despatch Agent
45 Broadway
New York City

For - Smithsonian Institution
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Dr. William L. Stern, Curator
Division of Woods

This shipment, for customs purposes may be declared as "Wood specimens for scientific study - Without commercial value"- Origin Honduras.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 13, 1962

Dr. Paul Allen
Tela Railroad Company
Lancetilla, Honduras

Dear Paul,

As I indicated previously, I am writing to express my sincere thanks in regard to your kind offer to send us wood samples from collections made in the Golfo Dulce region of Costa Rica. If you wish to send these specimens to me "collect," you may do so by advising me beforehand and addressing your shipment as follows:

U.S. Despatch Agent,
45 Broadway,
New York, New York
For Smithsonian Institution
(U.S. National Museum),
Washington, D.C.

I must say, that it was a great pleasure for me to meet you and Dorothy after having followed your footsteps for so many years. I was considerably heartened by our meetings in Trinidad, and although I envisioned some rough going, I think that we have set our sights in the right direction. Whether or not we will succeed as an association will depend in large part upon the subsequent activities of our three-man committee. I have spoken to a number of my colleagues here in Washington and they seem quite enthusiastic. No doubt all of them will be willing to pay their dollar to become members.

I hope that you have not forgotten to give my best regards to Dwayne Richardson. Will you mention that I shall be attending the A.I.B.S. meetings in Corvallis, Oregon and that I hope to see him there?

Very best regards,

Bill

William L. Stern
Curator
Division of Woods

YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

30 June 1958

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93,
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

Dear Dr. Allen,

Thank you for your informative letter of 20 June in regard to Williams' Meliosma anisophylla and M. longipetiolata. We will take your recommendation and write to Williams to ask if he will consider validating these names and perhaps allowing us to publish these in Tropical Woods. Should we need photographs of these species, we will be happy to take advantage of your kind offer to make these available.

Very sincerely yours,

William L. Stern

William L. Stern, Curator
Samuel James Record Memorial Collection

June 20, 1958

Dr. William L. Stern, Curator
S. J. Record Memorial Collection
Yale School of Forestry
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Stern:

Herbarium material of the two species of Meliosma from the Golfo Dulce area in Costa Rica, mentioned in your letter of June 11, was turned over to Dr. Louis Williams some five years past, with the understanding that he would validate the herbarium names through the publication of a Latin description before my field manual went to press.

This he was unable to do, yet I felt it unethical to pirate his names, through a Latin description of my own, so that they were handled in the rather unsatisfactory way that they were, in the hope that he would be able to get out something on them within a relatively brief period.

This material is, so far as I know, still in his hands, but I have no idea by now what he plans to do with it. I would suggest that you write to him, c/o the U.S.D.A. Plant Introduction Station in Beltsville, with the view of validating these and other names by means of brief descriptions, that might possibly be run in Tropical Woods. I have photographs of both of these in my files, and would be glad to supply you with a glossy print of each, if they would be of any use to you.

With most sincere regards,


Paul H. Allen

YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

June 11, 1958

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
HONDURAS

Dear Dr. Allen:

My colleague Dr. Brizicky and I have been working recently on the identification of a collection of woody plant specimens from Panama. In this connection we are necessarily concerned with the validity of some of the names applied to our specimens. A question has arisen as to the time and place of publication in Latin of two species described by you on page 261 in "The rain forests of Golfo Dulce," namely Meliosma anisophylla and M. longipetiolata, both by Standley and L. Williams. We have checked the "Index Kewensis" and have not been able to locate either species. Would you then be kind enough to let us know the date and place wherein these two species are described in Latin? Your consideration will be gratefully acknowledged.

Sincerely yours,

William L. Stern

William L. Stern, Curator
S. J. Record Memorial Collection

WLS/hk