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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.

March 15, 1962

Dr. Paul H. Allen
c/o The United Fruit Co.
Tela, Honduras, C. A.

Dear Paul:

After considerable vacillation, I think that I have decided to go to press on Dussia with your 5988 as D. cuscatlanica. That is what you had labelled our sheet in the first place, although you cited it as D. mexicana in your book. (Was it because of the less acuminate leaflets, or are you reducing D. cucatlanica?). I tried your collection as a new species, but with only immature material I was not completely convinced. If we ever get additional material, especially fruit, from Vera Cruz, Mexico, D. mexicana and D. cuscatlanica might prove to be synonymous.

I have searched vainly, with Conrad Morton's help, for specimens of your 6655 and 6703, D. macrophyllata. The photograph in your book leaves no doubt as to identity, but I have wondered if duplicates have been distributed.

Sometime, when you have time for a safari, I wish you would look for Dussia cuscatlanica in your present neighborhood. We have two sterile sheets, Standley 54199 and 55293, that were collected in "wet forest, Lancetilla Valley, near Tela, Department of Atlántida; altitude 20-600 meters, Dec. 6, 1927-Mar. 20, 1928." The specimens originally were determined as "Lonchocarpus latifolius?".

When you were here, I think that I mentioned that Basiloxylon had been reduced. In case you have not seen the reference, it is Reinwardtia 5:416. 1960, and the new name for your material is Pterygota excelsa (Standl. & Wms.) Kosterm.

Hope things are well. Season's Greetings.

Sincerely,

Velva E. Rudd
Associate Curator
Division of Phanerogams

I leave Mar. 25th for about 1 week in Trinidad, 1 in Caracas, and 1 at Barro Colorado Isl., Panama — thence to Los Angeles, with a weekend in Guatemala. Wish I had time

more stops in C.A. How was your Xmas — the north?

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