



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

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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.

3 July, 1989

Dr. Tin Myint
Associate Professor
Myitkyina College
Myitkyina
BURMA

Dear Dr. Myint,

I am preparing an "Etymological Dictionary of the Grasses" and write to seek your advice on a species of *Coix* listed in Bor's "Grasses of India, Burma and Ceylon".

The species concerned is *C. ma-yuen*. Is this epithet a Burmese name? If so, what is its meaning in English?

Your address was given to me by Win Kyi who is studying in my Department.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

20th July, 89.
the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Dear Prof. Clifford

Ma-Yu is the name of an area in the north-western part of the Rakhine state (formerly Arakan state). It is bounded in the west by Bangladesh. In the area there is a small river, which bears the name Ma-Yu. There is also a range, Ma-Yu range, in that area.

Since the species Coix ma-yuen is an upland plant according to the record in the Flora of British India, the epithet was probably derived from Ma-Yu range. I have no idea whether the people in that area really cultivate it or not.

I hope this reply will answer your question.

Yours sincerely

Tin Myint

Tin Myint
Prof. of Botany

ပျံ့လွင့်-အပိုမထည့်ရ

AIR LETTER

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED (Wa = bamboo)

Wamin

= King of bamboo

men = King



Prof. H.T. Clifford
Dept. of Botany
University of Queensland
St. Lucia, QLD.
Australia 4067

Second fold here

Dr. Tin Myint
Dept. of Botany
Myittha College
Myittha, BURMA

Sender's name and address:

First fold here

Dear Dr. Tin Myint
Thank you for explaining
clearly the origin of the name
Caer ma-yuen. Perhaps you would be
kind enough to help with another name?
In his Indo-Chinese Trees 1685, Brandis
refers to wamin as the Burmese name for
Bamboo wamin. Are you able
to offer a meaning for wamin? Kind regards
with yours ever and
H.J.L.

7 August, 1989

Prof. Tin Myint
Professor of Botany
Myitkyina College
Myitkyina
BURMA

Dear Prof. Tin Myint,

Thank you for your prompt reply to my request for information concerning the origin of the specific name *ma-yuen*.

When Win Kyi leaves Brisbane, my main source of information about Burmese names will not be available and so you may hear from me again if further problems arise.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

22 May, 1990

Curator
Forest Department Herbarium
526 Merchant Street
Rangoon
MYANMAR

Dear Curator,

The grass *Dichanthium theinlwinii* was named in honor of an official collector probably attached to the Forestry Department.

To complete his entry in my forthcoming "Etymological Dictionary of the Grasses" I would like to know his years of birth and death, his normal occupation and full name.

I would be most grateful if you are able to assist and enclose herein for your information a page of the Dictionary.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany