



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
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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.

5/15/62

5/15/62

Lucy M. Cranwell  
[Mrs. Watson Smith],  
5045 East Grant Road,  
Tucson, Arizona.

May 15, 1962

Dear Otto and Isa:

I have at last found the article on acanthaceous pollen types. It is by an Indian worker, Bhoj Raj of the Birbal Sahni Institute for Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India. How good Raj is in dealing with systematics, I cannot say. His paper is very long and very beautifully illustrated, but I have not been able to glean much of real help to you for Justicia and Nicotena.

Title: "POLLEN MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES IN THE ACANTHACEAE" in Grana Palynologica, Vol. III, 1 (1961), Stockholm.

"Grana", as you will know, is Erdtman's volume.


From Raj I have at least found the source of the pollen terms you quoted. They appear to be from Lindau (1895). Unfortunately I do not have the first edition of Engler & Prantl.

Raj says he has replaced such terms as "Knötchen-pollen" with better ones. On checking Justicia I find that he gives "verrucate" for Rhacodiscus, which Lindau separated from Justicia, but which Bremekamp (1938) put together again. According to Raj (p. 98) "Lindau no doubt was right in separating Rhacodiscus from Justicia on account of the pollen characters. The pollen grains of the above two genera, although 2-porate, are, due to the presence of verrucae in Rhacodiscus (cf. Rhacodiscus calycinus, Pl. 24, Figs. 1-4), sufficiently distinct to be separated." The illustrations show very strong verrucae, some rounded but some with pointed apices.

I am very handicapped, as you will already have seen because I do not have the main literature and I have very few pollen slides for the family.

I referred you to Ikuse's work on the family. She gave ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> fused ~~two~~ furrows for Justicia but Raj grants only two pores. I don't know the reason for this difference.

As to exine surface in Justicia (according to Raj): the surface seems to be smooth in his species, with "rods" (bacula) fusing under it. The rods may be straight or branched.

rod —  — this is how I think it would look.

Raj, by the way, is inclined to put Meyenia in Pedaliaceae. This, I think, might be very sensible. Again, I know Meyenia only from the literature, but am very interested in it and wish very much I could get some of its pollen.

Best wishes, Lucy

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Waielua, Oahu, Hawaii.  
March 16, 1962.

Dear Mr. Calkin:

I finally unearthed a photo perhaps appropriate for the needs expressed on reverse.

You may recall that in 1940-41 I was botanist for the Anne Archbold Cheng-Ho Expedition (see Alumni Bulletin for May 1944), botanizing for eight months in the Fiji Islands. Partly with my own funds I amassed an invaluable collection of plants of which a set is deposited at my alma mater in Amherst, and entirely with my own funds I published my book on "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji." The Cheng-Ho during the war years was turned over by Mrs. Archbold to the Navy, which for a time used it as a weather station. The war ended, the vessel was returned in a dilapidated yet still valuable condition to the original owner, Elderly Mrs. Archbold, no longer interested in exploratory work and grateful of my Fiji results, kindly sold me this one-time \$100,000 vessel at a nominal sum.

Unable to finance the rehabilitation of the 100 foot teakwood Chinese junk alone, I formed a stock company, with the understanding that I retain the option to repurchase my vessel five years later for \$15,000. Among shareholders was a fascinating foreigner and expert navigator, to our Emigration Officials a persona non grata sojourning in Hawaii only until a ship of his Nationality should call at Honolulu enabling the smooth adventurers deportation. Not knowing that the man had a questionable past, we shareholders logically engaged him as our captain.

When the Cheng-Ho had been made seaworthy and stowed with trade-goods, the captain with some shareholders as crew sailed with my blessing on a trading voyage to Tahiti. Instead of returning with cash or French commodities, he sold our ware and even equipment from the vessel for activities in Papeete centering about "wine, women and song." Not only that, in the Office of the Governor, he had the vessel registered as his own property under the French flag! The crew, practically penniless beachcombers, finally worked their way back home to Hawaii. Litigation followed but without success as the vessel was no longer within jurisdiction of the U.S.

A visit to the State Department in Washington to attempt the return of the vessel after five years as stipulated in the contract disclosed that our Government could do nothing until I had brought the case of near-piracy up in Court in Tahiti. As travel and legal expenses, followed undoubtedly by Court action friendly to the Governor, would be prohibitive, I complained of this injustice to the Assemblée Nationale in Paris. After considerable delay, the Colonial Government agreed to the return of the vessel on condition I pay the \$15,000 as stipulated, the payment to be made immediately. Not wishing to buy a pig in a poke, I was about to

sail via Noumea for Tahiti to check matters when another letter arrived stating that the vessel must continue to remain under the French flag and that a certain part-Tahitian was to own 51% of the shares! Investigation showed that the gentleman chosen to be my partner was an ex-convict who had spent two years in prison for having sunk a vessel in an attempt to swindle the insurance underwriters.

Lacking sufficient funds for litigation of an international character and actually fearful of bodily harm should I visit a French Colony where Law and Order seem a bit primitive, I am presently marking time on a trading water; while the Cheng-Ho now sails in French Oceania as a lucrative passenger and cargo vessel for the benefit of spurious owners.

By the way, Mrs. Degener and I had a nice visit from the Dick Holdens (Ex-Faculty, 1920?) last week.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
COLUMBIA

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

March 19, 1962

Dr. Velva Rudd  
Herbarium  
U. S. National Museum  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Velva:

I thought that perhaps I'd better make a progress report to let you know that I actually am working on the *Lupines* of Mexico. I have now run the number of names that will have to be accounted for as taxa or as synonyms up past 200, with the end still not in sight. I am at present, working on the key for the annuals and hope to finish that portion first.

I am not sure how much of the citations you would want included, although in some cases there just isn't much. Also, how much do you suggest that I include in the way of illustrations. I can include either complete or partial illustrations such as the floral charts that I have used with the monographs of sections or portions of the genus that I have already published on.

The one thing about Smith's work is that he already has a latin description on so many plants that it is highly improbable that I will have much occasion to write up a latin description.

Sincerely,

*Dave*

David B. Dunn  
Curator of the Herbarium

*Answer March 27, 62  
for Trinidad*

Armando Dugand  
Apartado Aereo 85  
Barranquilla, Colombia.

May 30, 1962.

Dr. Velva Rudd, Associate Curator  
Division of Phanerogams,  
Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington 25, D.C., USA.

Dear Dr. Rudd:

Many thanks for your kind letter of May 22.

The news of the presence of Uribea tamarindoides in Costa Rica is extremely interesting, and a pleasant surprise indeed. I think, however, that this presence is not so surprising as the fact that it had not been discovered before, considering that Costa Rica has been so frequently visited by botanical collectors.

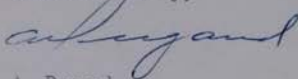
I have just written a brief supplement to my paper and am sending it immediately to Bogotá in the hope that this valuable information is included.

I have also had recent correspondence with Dr. Berlyn and Dr. Mark, Yale School of Forestry, concerning the wood anatomy of Uribea, a short study of which will appear with the description of the genus.

Your help and Dr. Cowan's have been wonderful and decisive. I am greatly obliged to both of you.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,



A. Dugand

AD:ss.

IBM

Data Processing Division  
1240 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Telephone: 512-726

International Business Machines Corporation

September 18, 1962

Doctor Otto Degener  
68-67 Crozier Drive  
Waiala, Oahu

Dear Doctor Degener:

Thank you kindly for granting us permission to use photographic reproductions of drawings in your book "Plants of Hawaii National Park."

As we had previously discussed over the telephone, would you please grant us your permission in writing.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*RK Wong*  
R. K. Wong  
Administration Manager

:jp

September 22, 1962

Dr. John D. Dwyer  
Department of Biology  
St. Louis University  
St. Louis 4, Missouri

Dear John:

As of today I have the 4 species of Panamá *Ormosia* pretty well lined up, and I should soon be able to return the MO specimens. I finally was able to get fruit and seed of *O. panamensis* (= *O. stipitata*), showing that species to be related to Chinese but no other American species !

Your collection of *O. isthmensis* from the Isla Coiba (I trust that you were not incarcerated for long) helped very much in establishing the southern limits of that species. Incidentally, the point of this letter is to check on the number of that collection and to remind you that you owe me a formal label for it. The pencilled label bears the number 1170, but the enclosing newspaper bears the number 6170. Please let me know for my citation and, if possible, send me a label so I can have our sheet mounted.

I don't recall if I told you that I spent a week in Panamá in April. It was too short a time to do much more than make a reconnaissance survey and mark a lot of spots I should like to return to. I spent a couple of hours in the Peña Blanca area of Barro Colorado Island and, like you, was unable to find the *Ormosia* that Shattuck collected.

I suppose that you are starting the new school year. Best wishes and season's greetings.

Sincerely,

Velva E. Rudd  
Associate Curator  
Division of Phanerogams



D.O. No. NBG/Dir-62

10/18/62



National Botanic Gardens  
LUCKNOW (India)

Date October 18 1962.

Dear Dr. Degener,

It was a real pleasure to receive your letter dated June 26, 1962 today. It took me back to the days when I was in Hawaii. Your letter head giving the view of your home refreshes my memories of your hospitality and of the interesting and instructive discussions that took place between us during my short stay there. I entirely agree with you that Dr. Ray E. Torrey was a seer. Your contacts with him have given you an insight to the meaning of life. You and Mrs. Degener, since we met in Canada appeared to me as two love birds who had the same purpose in life and who were interested in all things living. On my return to India I tried to give a description of you to my wife and we often thought of you living on the beach defying all dangers which tidal waves can bring in that area.

*Argemone Mexicana* is really a very interesting plant. It stores potassium nitrate as a honey bee stores honey and utilizes it in the same way. We have started doing cultural experiments on it to find out how potassium and nitrate ions are absorbed.

Thank you very much for sending the Papaya seeds. We are very fond of good papayas. I will grow them in my garden.

I am glad that N.S.F. has extended help for publication of your work. It would be a good idea to inform the N.S.F. that your work entails field work and some allowance should be provided for that.

Your father was an enlightened person, therefore, during his business tours he picked up pearls and discarded the pebbles. Life is full of both good as well as bad things; both have their utility. Alkaloids are poisonous but they are also medicines. Indian literature is full of this theme. Indian seers have tried to bring this aspect of life repeatedly that there is nothing bad about anything, only the time and place give an object its positive or negative value. These ideas are so deeply rooted in Indian masses that I am sure nothing in the world will be able to effect them. Modern storms may be able to break the branches or even break the main stem, but the roots will continue to grow underground and will shoot new stems again when better environments will come. This has happened in India repeatedly. This repeated rise or fall of cultural life in India force Indian thinkers to evolve a theory of incarnation and in the 'Songs Celestial' known as 'Gita' in Sanskrit, Lord Krishna has explained to his disciple Arjun who was disillusioned by the darkness of the age that prevailed that corruption and righteousness alternate in the life of the world; after the extremes are reached forces are generated which bring out balance and establish order. We should not get perplexed.

Botany is not only the science of plants but it is a Science of life. Politics is only the bubbles which appear on the surface of disturbed waters of life. Those who understand life they should see the bottom and not the surface as the real source of life lies in the bottom.

I am sending under separate cover bulletins for your library.

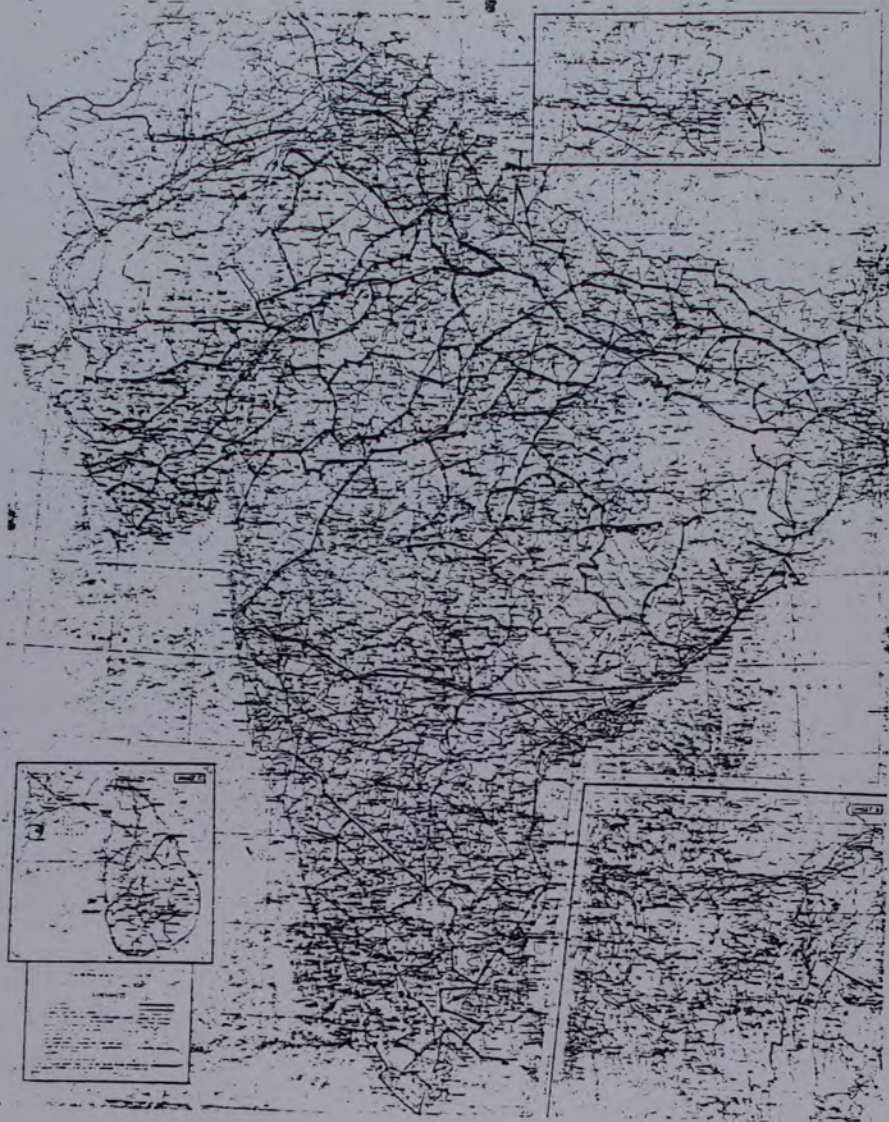
With kind regards to Mrs. Degener,

Yours sincerely,

*H. N. Kaul*  
(H. N. Kaul)



Hunt



PLANT COLLECTION TOURS  
1953 - TO DATE

of Dr. K. M. Kaul, Director  
Nat. Bot. Gardens  
Lucknow, India

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY  
1402 SOUTH GRAND BOULEVARD  
SAINT LOUIS 4, MISSOURI  
October 25, 1962

Miss Velva E. Rudd  
Associate Curator  
Division of Phanerogams  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Velva:

Many thanks for your nice letter and the news that the ms. of Panamanian Ormosias is about ready.

Only today am I moving my 1000 numbers of Panama plants collected this summer to the Missouri Botanical Garden. I have at least 2 collections of Ormosia for you (one from Coiba, I believe, is O. isthmensis). I shall pull these for you and send them pronto.

I had some time at the University of Panama this summer where I was assigned a lab. All was fine from July 1 to August 15. At that time 50 communist students incited a strike and as a result the University was closed completely until September 9. I returned home on September 6. Obviously my work was interrupted somewhat and I have had some difficulty in straightening out my collections as a result.

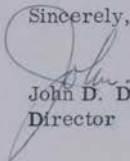
I did not get to Barro Colorado Island this summer. It is hard to collect there unless one uses a canoe or boat of some kind.

Dr. Duke is still in Panama and his leg is much better. It was in bad shape when I saw him 3 months ago at Fort Kobbe Dispensary.

The Symposium here last week was (to me) disappointing from the view-point of the papers read.

Hope you are well and so happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,

  
John D. Dwyer, Ph.D.  
Director

JDD:jo

11/20/62

TELEGRAM : BAGH  
TELEPHONE : 2408

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE  
ADDRESSED TO 'THE DIRECTOR'  
QUOTING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER



NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS  
LUCKNOW (INDIA)

No. NBG/Dir/62-2

Dated November 20, 1962  
21

Dear Dr Degener,

I know how busy you must be in your work but I hope you will excuse me for bothering you. For our library we require a short biographical sketch of different botanical workers who have enriched our knowledge of different groups of plants. I am, therefore, requesting you to kindly give us a small account of your life and achievements. The main purpose is to show to young workers how one has to struggle in life to achieve one's objective. I hope you will pen down something for us.

With Season's greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(K.N.Kaul) F.L.S.  
Director

Dr Otto Degener,  
Waialua,  
OAHU, Hawaii. (USA).



T

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
JAMAICA PLAIN — CAMBRIDGE — WESTON  
MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.



HERBARIUM, LIBRARY AND LABORATORIES  
22 DIVINITY AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

December 14, 1962

Dr. Otto Degener  
Waialua, Oahu,  
Hawaii

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thanks very much for your letter of December 6th. We had had the news of Rock's death, for a very nice notice appeared in the "New York Times." If you should see Mrs. Marks or other of Dr. Rock's friends and associates, please indicate to them that we did learn of his death and that we do express our sympathies.

We did publish a paper of Ben Stone's on Platydesma in the October issue of the Journal of the Arnold Arboretum. We do not keep reprints at the present time and those ordered have been sent to Stone. Perhaps you had better write to him directly. We have not heard from him since the typhoon passed Guam and hope he got through it without too much loss of personal possessions. I am sending you a copy of the galley proof which is the best we can do at the present time and hope this will give you the content of the article, although I admit that you cannot cite from this.

Thank you also for keeping us in mind on the distribution of your duplicate specimens. We are always pleased to have them. With best wishes for the Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Howard  
Director

Encl.  
RAH:kah



# PLANT FAMILY NAMED FOR

OTTO DEGENER '22 Nov 1942

Mrs. Star College Alumni Bulletin

Word has just been received of a unique botanical distinction recently conferred upon Otto Degener '22. Degener is now at the New York Botanical Garden, but for many years he has resided in the Hawaiian Islands where he has been busily engaged in the preparation of his *Flora Hawaiiensis*.

In 1940-41 he was appointed botanist to the Pacific cruise of the "Cheng Ho" sponsored by Mrs. Anne Archbold. "The botanical collections were made with the cooperation of the Arnold Arboretum and the New York Botanical Garden. Mr. Degener obtained about 2100 field numbers. . . The area covered centered on the largest island, Viti Levu, where numerous regions near the coast were visited. Mr. Degener also spent several weeks in the mountains of Tholo North Province, and additional work was done in the Savu Savu Bay region of Vanua Levu."

Degener informs us by letter that he became acquainted with a native Fijian chief who, learning that his visitor had no children, saw to it that one of his own numerous progeny became Degener's son by adoption after the appropriate rites of kava-drinking, and so on. So Degener now has a full grown "son" of pure Fijian blood.

The report on the Degener plant collection has just appeared in a monograph of 148 pages issued by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. (Smith, A. J. and collaborators. Fijian Plant Studies. Sargentia: I, pp. 1-148. July 1942.) We discover that some dozen plants new to science bear the species name *Degeneri*.

Most remarkable, however, is a tree discovered on Fiji and allied to the magnolias, which fails to fit into any of the known plant families and has been named *Degeneria vitiensis* of the new family Degeneriaceae. The institution of a new family of angiosperms is a notable event and the Alumni should feel highly gratified that one of its members has been so signally honored.

R. E. T. '12

## Star Cactus Flower Has Strong Odor

While there's nothing "new" about star cactus flowers, each blossom invariably becomes an object of attention—as well it should in view of the distinctive appearance of the flower.

Because of the odor of the blossom, it's sometimes called the carrion flower.

There are about 80 species in the family, a native of South Africa, and the largest flowering one (shown on this page) is the *Stapelia gigantea*. It was grown from cutting by Leon Russell, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus L. Russell, of 1071 Jones Street.

### RADFORD STUDENT

Leon, a student at Radford High School, says this is the first time this particular plant has bloomed in their yard, that is, in about two and a half years time.

Young Russell waters the plant about once a week (the home is in a fairly dry portion of the city) and fertilizes it every two months.

It should be re-potted every two years for best re-



This star cactus blossom is 14 inches wide

suits, he says, adding that this particular specimen is ready for re-potting right now.

And star cactus will grow readily from cuttings.

The Russells, a Navy family, hope to take some cuttings with them when they leave Hawaii about a year from now.

The flower has a terra cotta texture with a crimson outline and the normal flowering season here is late summer or even early fall.

### POWERFUL ODOR

The scent?

Al Yamauchi, Star-Bulletin photographer who took the photo, volunteered this comment:

"It's a beautiful flower—but, goodness, what a horrible odor."

The scent, young Russell says, lingers with the flower until about the day before the blossom dies.

Which brings up a question: If breeders can breed

the scent out of roses (as they have been doing for some years), why can't someone perfect an odorless star cactus flower?

## THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM



JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

Dec. 3, 1945

Dear Degener:

You are right as to the chronological order of the 3 known colls. of *Degeneria*. Parham's id dated "7 - 3 - 39." [You guess whether this is July 3 or Mar. 7.]. All the other data I have on this coll. is noted in Torr. Bull. 70: 537.

Sorry to hear about Egler. I met him once or twice. What happened to him, and where is he now?

Sincerely,

Wardlaw, Viti Levu, B.C. Parham

1488 name there

AC3.

Acrocodendron ghaeri

brown.m.o., Peoples Prob. Pacif. 2:46.1927. ((Hawaii)) And when the obsequies were over, Aaahumanu saw in the young king's passion ((Liholiho)) for rum the chance of her life. The system of tanu which had reduced the status of women to that of slaves, thrusting them not only out of the temples, but out of comradeship with their husbands and sons at meal-time, had galled her proud nature during her whole lifetime. She now saw the prospect of overthrowing it and attaining the upright attitude of a human being.