

The Genus *Pleiogynium* in Papua

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PLATE III

(Read before the Royal Society of Queensland, 28th August, 1933).

In his "Forest Resources of the Territories of Papua and New Guinea" (Government Printer, Melbourne, 1925) C. E. Lane-Poole records *Pleiogynium Solandri* Engl., the "Burdekin Plum" of Queensland, as growing at Aroa, Papua. These specimens were listed in the systematic account of Lane-Poole's collections by White and Francis (these Proceedings Vol. XXXVIII, p. 237). They consisted of a few leafy branches with female inflorescences and detached seeds. They agree well with Queensland material, except that the seeds are markedly smaller than in any Queensland specimens observed by me.

Early this year the Rev. A. H. Lambton brought me specimens of a *Pleiogynium* from the mountains near Goodenough Bay, Territory of Papua. These, unfortunately, in addition to timber and bark, consisted only of leafy branches bearing male inflorescences with the flowers in bud only.

Whether the specimen from Aroa and those from Goodenough Bay represent the same species or not, can only be told from more complete material, *e.g.*, male flowers in the former, and female flowers and fruit in the latter case. Personally, I regard the tree growing at Aroa as identical with the Queensland one, and the one growing at Goodenough Bay as distinct from it. Aroa in the west and Goodenough Bay in the east are opposite ends of the Territory of Papua, and though the material is fragmentary, the Rev. Lambton's specimens show distinct differences from Queensland ones; and as the flora of the south and west of the Territory of Papua is more Australian than that of the east, I have decided to name his specimens as a new species and offer a description herewith.

Pleiogynium papuanum sp. nov.

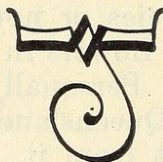
Arbor mediocris, partibus novellis pubescentibus mox glabris, cortice atro ca. 1.5cm. crasso, ligno atro-castaneo. Folia imparipinnata, 3-4-juga, rhachide 8-20cm. longo, interstitiis inter jugalibus 2-3.5cm. longis; foliola petiolulo 2mm. suffulta, oblonga, breviter acuminata 6-8cm. longa, 2.5-4cm. lata, saepe latere superiore quam inferius paulum latiore, nervis lateralibus 9-11 in utroque latere, subtus prominulis. Paniculae masculae axillares, densiflorae, ad. 15cm. longae, ramulis secundariis horizontaler patentibus, infimis ca. 3cm. longis, tertiariis 0.5cm. longis, rhachide ramulis albo-furfuraceis pedicellis robustis brevis, cum calyce 1.5mm. longis. Calyx 5-lobatus. Petala oblonga, 1.5mm. longa, alba; stamina 10; filamentis 1mm. longis, leviter applanatis. Ovarium abortivum pyramidatum; stylis liberis 2-4 (plerumque 3). Flores feminei ignoti. Drupa ignota.

In mountains near Goodenough Bay, altitude 500 feet, Territory of Papua. Rev. A. H. Lambton.

Native names :—Wedan Language—Daraia. Daga Language—Kwa-ma-ma-tua.

Type :—Herbarium, Brisbane. Co-type material at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Botanic Gardens and Museum, Berlin; Arnold Arboretum, Boston; Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg.

Differs from *P. Solandri* Engl., the only previously known species, in possessing smaller male flowers, all pedicellate, more numerous in the panicle and in the rhachis and branches being covered with a grey scurfy tomentum. When female flowers and fruits are known probably other differences will be shown. The wood is softer than that of *P. Solandri* Engl., but like it, turns with a beautiful figure as shown by some examples of turnery made by Mr. Lambton.





Pleio gynium pup anum (Sp. Nov.)

Photo Department Agriculture and Stock,
Brisbane



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