

BASILOXYLON K. SCHUMANN and **PTERYGOTA** ENDL. (Stercul.) *

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In Martius, Fl. Brasil. 12 (3): 12. 1886 (in observ.) K. Schumann described a specimen (*Peckolt 628*) collected in Cantagallo (Rio de Janeiro), conserved in the Brussels Herbarium and marked by Martius *Sterculia rex* (after the local name Pao del Rey); he suggested to name it *Basiloxylon rex*, if it should prove to be new; the name is consequently not valid under the Rules, but it was validated by Schumann in the same year (in *Berichte deutsche bot. Gesellsch.* 4: 82, t. 3. 1886). The latter description was based partly on the specimen Glaziou 10310.

It is peculiar, that he omitted to compare his new genus with *Pterygota*.

In Engler and Prantl, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.* 3 (6): 98. 1895, Schumann had apparently discovered the earlier description of the species under *Pterygota brasiliensis* Allemao (in *Trab. Comm. sci. Explor. Bot.* 1: 7. 1862); he referred the species to *Basiloxylon*, but did not mention his former species *B. rex*, although he cited the local name: King's Wood.

None of the characters, stressed by Schumann to separate *Basiloxylon* from *Pterygota* holds true; the number of carpels is variable, even in the same individual of *Pterygota*; parallel and irregularly placed anthers are found in *Pterygota*, this character is on the specific level; the character of the thickness of the wing is even on the specific level rather dubious.

Recently I received material of a tree, grown in the Botanical Garden in Rio de Janeiro assumed to represent *Pt. brasiliensis* (Constantine, *Herb J. Botan.* no. 18106), which actually is *Pterygota alata* R. Br., a species from India. I saw the same species grown in the Garden of the Agricultural Experimental Station of Santiago de las Vegas in Cuba.

The leaves of *Pt. alata* and *Pt. brasiliensis* show a striking similarity, but *Pt. brasiliensis* has a kind of sacs between the bases of the main nerves near the petiole insertion on the lower leaf surface; these are absent in *Pt. alata*. The flowers of *Pt. brasiliensis* are smaller than those of *Pt. alata* and their indumentum is less "woolly".

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Lasser (in Bolet. Soc. Venezolana Sci. nat. 15 (81): 114. 1954) mentioned a fruit of *Pterygota*, collected in Venezuela. This might represent a new species, but the possibility that it is *Pt. brasiliensis* should by no means be excluded.

In Central America a species was discovered (Standley and Williams in Ceiba 3: 30. 1952), which was named *Basiloxylon excelsum*, of which only the fruit are known. The leaves are similar to those of *Pterygota brasiliensis*; they show some scattered stellate hairs near the base of the lower leaf-surface; these occur also in the specimen: Glaziou 10310 of *Pt. brasiliensis*.

For the time being, I prefer to keep it separate from *Pt. brasiliensis* as *Pterygota excelsa* (Standley & Williams) Kostermans, comb. nov. (basinym: *Basiloxylon excelsum* Standley and Williams), although I have the feeling that it is conspecific with *Pt. brasiliensis*.

In his Flora of Panama (in Fieldiana, Bot. 24: 404. 1949), Standley already suggested the possibility that *Basiloxylon* should be referred to *Pterygota*. The author mentioned, beside of the type specimen, two photographs of a leaf and fruit, attained from Morales, Dept. Izabal, Guatemala by R. W. Hess and fruit and leaves from Las Quebradas.

The vernacular name in Brasil is Pao del Rey or Farinha secca; in Guatemala: papo de vieeja.

A species with very distinct leaves is *Pterygota colombiana* Quatrecasas (in Rev. Acad. Colomb., Bogota 8: 485. 1952), which that author placed rightly in *Pterygota*.

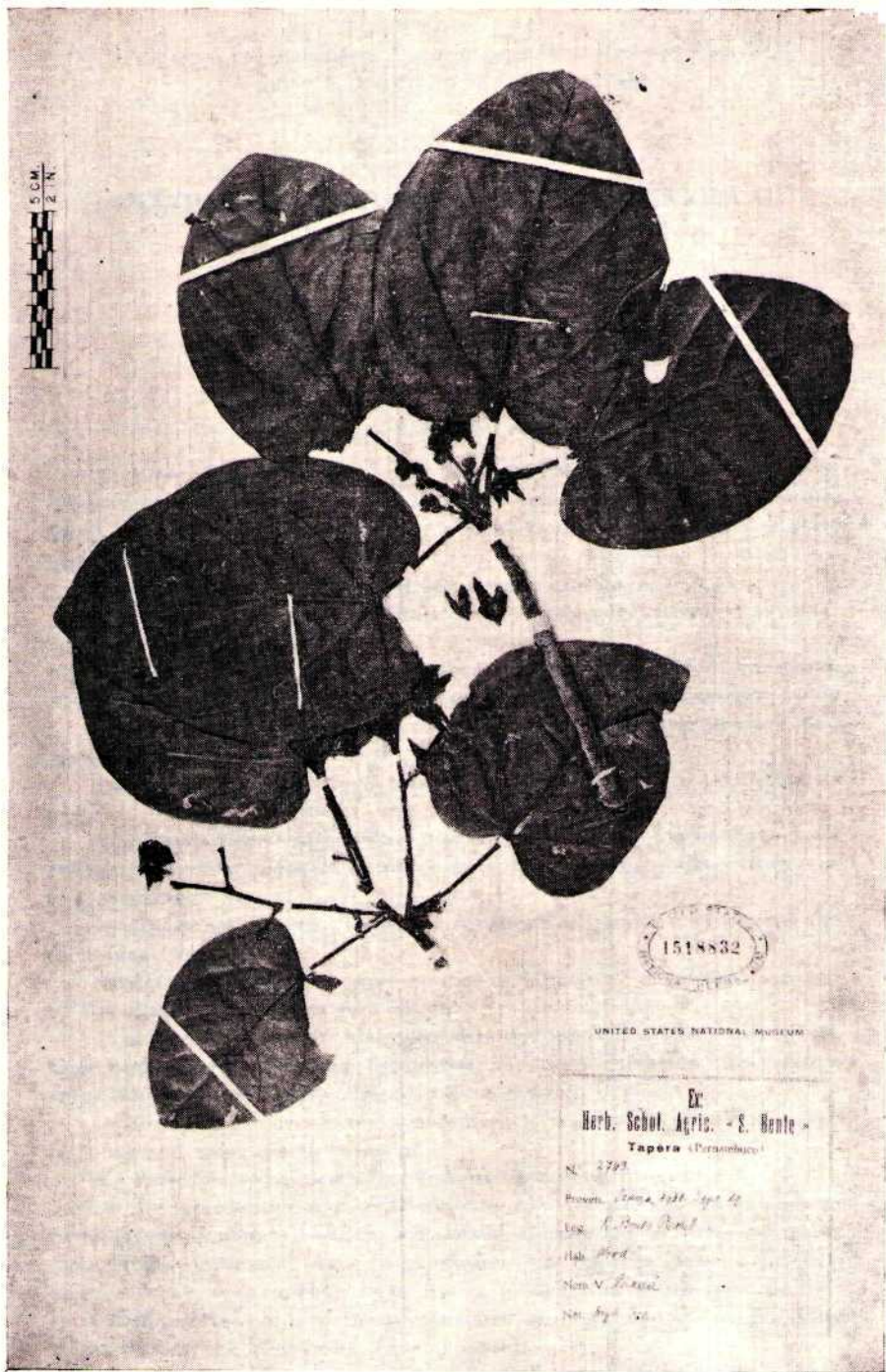
Material examined.

Pterygota brasiliensis Allemao.

Brazil. Rio de Janeiro, Cantagallo, buds, Peckolt 628 (BR); Larangeiras, Cantagallo, Oct., ster., Glaziou 1584.0 (BO, BR, C, GH) et 12454 (C); Minas, Rio Manso, Febr., fl., Glaziou 10310 (C, P); Fazenda de Cachaeira, Tombos, July, fl., Barreto 1556 — H.R.J. 13725 et fr, Barreto 1556 — H.R.J. 13734 (F); Pernambuco, Tapera, Sept., fl., Picket 2763 (US).

Pterygota excelsa (St. & Will.) Kosterm.

Honduras. Locality not indicated, May, ster., Whitford, Stadtvüller & Francis s.n. (YU); Costa Rica. Prov. Puntarenas, Golfito de Golfo Dulce, March, fr., Allen 5984 (F,NA,UC).



Pterygota brasiliensis Allemao — After Picket 2763 (US); Smithsonian Institution negative n. 45550.