

SUMMARY

Pithecellobium prancei, related to *T. simabifolium* Benth. and *P. spruceanum* Benth., is described and figured from specimens collected on white sand savannas along rio Aracá in northern Amazonas, Brazil. Its relationships within sect. *Samanea* ser. *Coriaceae* Benth., a group due for generic segregation from *Pithecellobium* sens. lat., are discussed.

Pithecellobium (sect. *Samanea* ser. *Coriaceae* Benth.) *prancei* Barneby, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).

Foliorum pinnis 1-jugis foliolisque utriusque pinnae 3--4-jugis solo cum *P. simabifolio* Benth. comparabilis et eo certe affinis, sed floribus crasse pedicellatis (nec sessilibus) subdimidio majoribus, calyce 8--10 (nec 5--6) mm, corolla 26--30 (nec 13--20) et androecio 45--60 (nec 22--44, raro 45 usque) mm longis diversa; ulterius foliola ultimi paris subrhombico-ovata 6--7.5 x 2.5--4 cm quam foliola *P. simabifolii* plerumque rhombico-oblongata 10--23 mm tantum lata perspicue latiora sunt.

Macrophyllidiosis unarmed shrubs at anthesis 1--4 m, with coarsely lenticellate branches at first lustrously castaneous but graying in age, glabrous below the minutely strigulose inflorescence, the coriaceous leaflets bicolored, lustrous green above, paler duller beneath, the umbelliform capitula of cream-white flowers either solitary or fasciculate by 2--3 in the axil of a few distal contemporary leaves.

Stipules triangular 1--2 mm, carnosulous, deciduous.

Leaf-stalks including wrinkled pulvinus and short-subulate terminal appendage 9--14 x 3--5 mm, charged ventrally near apex with a gross depressed-cupular thick-walled nectary 4.5--7 x 3.5--4.5 mm; pinnae 1-jugate, the rachis 5--10 cm, openly sulcate ventrally and charged immediately below each pair of leaflets with a thick-walled crateriform nectary ± 1--2 mm diam, and at very base, next to pulvinus, with a pair of subulate-conic paraphyllidia less than 1 mm; leaflets 3--4-jugate, a little accrescent upward, the blades obliquely rhombic-obovate from inequilateral broad-cuneate base, obtuse-emarginate at apex, the distal pair ± 6--7.5 x 2.5--4 cm, all 2-nerved from pulvinule, the scarcely excentric, dorsally prominulous midrib straight, pinnately branched its whole length, the secondary nerves ascending at angles near 45° and camptodrome well within the blade's

(*) Contribution of "Projeto Flora Amazônica".

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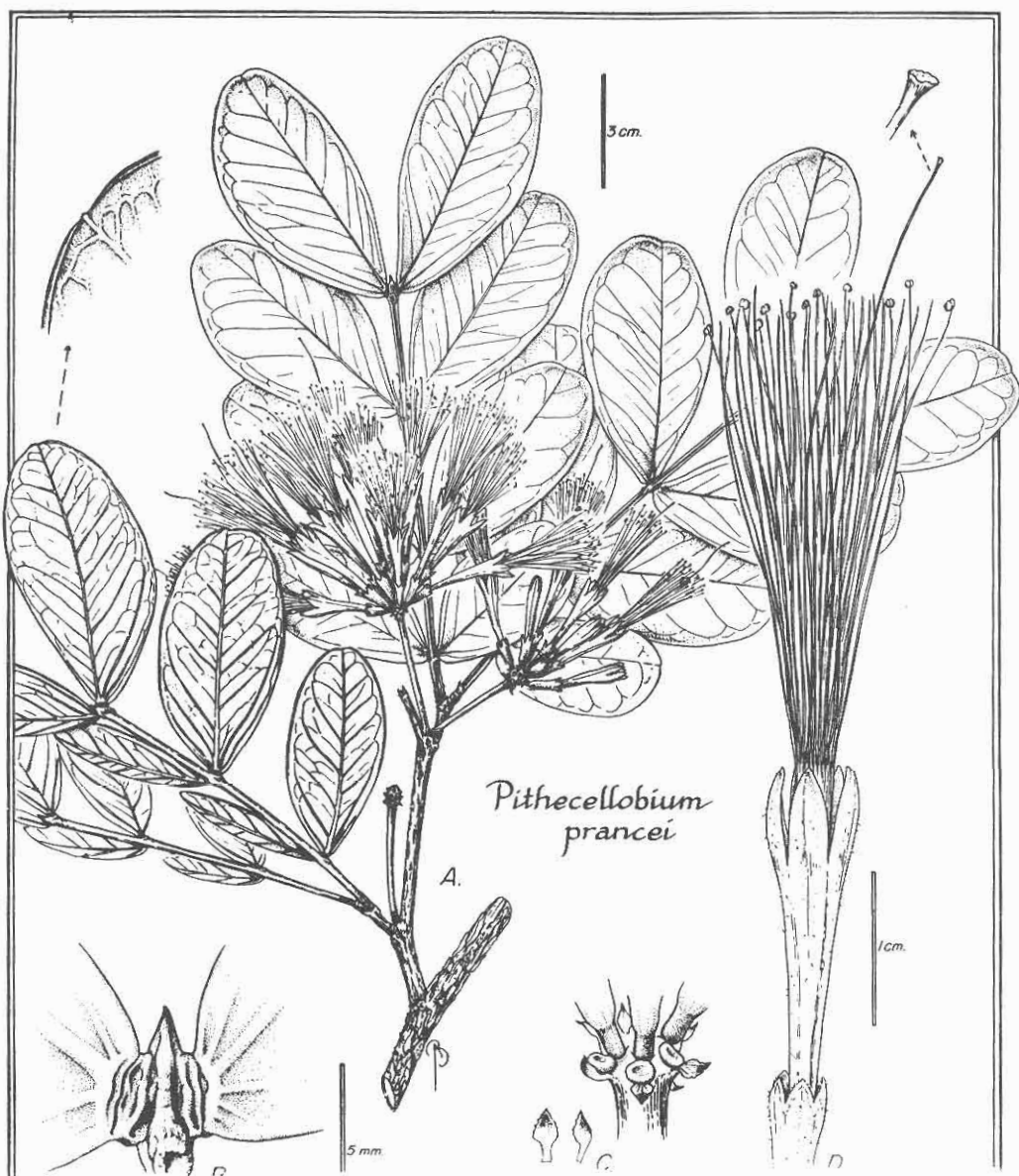


Fig. 1. *Pithecellobium prancei* Barneby. A) flowering branchlet; B) tip of leaf-stalk, showing nectary; C) floral receptacle, showing nectaries on lower bracts; D) flower. All from Prance 28744. Drawn by Barbara Angell.

subrevolute corneous margin, the posterior primary nerve almost simple, ascending to or beyond mid-blade.

Peduncles 2.5--6.5 cm, glabrous or minutely puberulent; receptacle clavate 4--5 x 2--3 mm, deeply alveolate at attachment of each flower; bracts dimorphic, the lower ones deltate \pm 1.5 mm, each charged on inner face with an obese plane or subdepressed nectary as wide as or wider than itself, the upper bracts oblanceolate, all persistent; flowers erect and widely ascending, homomorphic, 5-merous polyandrous, the calyx and corolla externally minutely strigulose; pedicels stout, when dry dark brown, 2--3 x 1.5 mm; calyx firm greenish-brown, deeply campanulate 8--10 x 3--5 mm, the ovate-triangular acute lobes 2.5--3 mm; corolla tubular very slightly dilated upward, 26--30 x 3--4 mm, firm-textured greenish-ochroleucous, the lance-ovate nearly erect lobes 5--8.5 x 2.5--3 mm; filaments \pm 110--120, white, 4.5--6 cm, monadelphous through 2--3 cm, the sheath not or scarcely exerted from corolla; anthers pallid \pm 0.25 x 0.3 mm; style a little longer than stamens, the funnellform stigma \pm 0.3 mm diam; ovary glabrous; pod unknown.

TYPE: Brazil. Amazonas: sandy margin of rio Aracá near Serrinha, 0°25'N, 63°23'W, 24 Jul 1985 (fl.), G. T. Prance (with C. D. Mota & J. A. C. da Silva) 28744. Holotype, INPA; isotypes, K, MO, NY, US.

Other collections seen: Brazil. Amazonas: white sand caatinga beside rio Aracá 5 km N of Equator at long. 63°15'W, 7 Jul 1985 (in bud), Prance (with O. Huber & J. M. Pires) 29407 (INPA, NY); flooded savanna on n. bank of rio Aracá just above Igarapê Sauadaua, 0°13'N, 63°08'W, 26 Jul 1985 (fl.), Prance (with O. Huber & E. L. S. da Silva) 29854 (A, INPA, MO, NY).

Distribution: in seasonally flooded white sand savanna and on sandy river banks, along and near rio Aracá at points 2--25'N of Equator in long. 63°08--23'W in n. Amazonas, Brazil, --Fl. Jul--Aug.

This exceptionally handsome pithecellobium, notable for relatively few and large, glossy coriaceous leaflets and far-exserted bundles of whitish filaments, combines in one plant the leaf-formula (one pair of pinnae and about 2--4 pairs of leaflets) of P. simabifolium Spruce ex Benth. with the very large, stoutly pedicellate flowers of multifoliate P. spruceanum Benth. The leaflets of P. simabifolium are prevailingly much narrower, the furthest pair on each pinna up to 18--23, not 25--40 mm wide; when almost as wide (e.g. Wurdack & Adderley 42992 from rio Atabapo in Amazonas, Venezuela) they number no more than two, not 3--4 pairs. Such broad-leaved forms of P. simabifolium suggest P. prancei vegetatively, but have the small narrow sessile calyx of their species.

Assignment of P. prancei to the genus Pithecellobium is a stopgap measure, awaiting definition of a segregate genus equivalent to sect. Samanea ser. Coriaceae Benth., as proposed by Nielsen (1981, p. 190, genus D). Even though the pod of P. prancei is unknown, its affinity to ser. Coriaceae is clearly expressed by the internally glanduliferous bracts, the organization of the inflorescence, and the stiff glossy leaflets.

It is appropriate to mention here a plant congeneric with P. prancei and P. simabifolium that was found growing near the former in open savanna at Serrinha (Prance 29803; NY). This is an erect, awkwardly branched shrublet only 4 dm tall with leaves almost
A new species of ...

of *P. simabifolium* except for an additional pair of pinnae in random leaves and leaflets of most pinnae 4--5-jugate. In size of flower it resembles *M. prancei*, but the calyx is sessile and the corolla is pink, not greenish-white. The few capitula collected are borne subterminally or pseudoterminally on branchlets of the current year. The material is inadequate for exact analysis, but suggests an undescribed species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The evocative portrait (Fig. 1) is the work of Barbara Angell, staff artist at NY.

RESUMO

É descrito a espécie nova *Pithecellobium prancei*, perto de *P. simabifolium* Benth. e *P. spruceanum* Benth., das caatingas Amazônicas do rio Aracá, Amazonas. A espécie nova é membro da secção *Samanea* ser. *Coriaceae* Benth.

Reference

Nielsen, I. - 1981. Leguminosae tribe Ingeae. In: R. M. & P. H. Raven, **Advances in Legume Systematics**, part 1: 173-190. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

(Aceito para publicação em 19.11.1986)