

NOTES ON MALAYSIAN MALVACEAE II *)

A new Thespesia species from New Guinea

by

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(Oegstgeest)

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Thespesia patellifera Borss., nov. spec. — Arbor altior. Ramuli subangulares, denique teretes, puberuli pilis stellatis minutissimis, glabrescentes, lenticulis minutis dispersis ornati. Stipulae appressae vel patentes, late ovatae, apice acutae, subconcavae, coriaceae, puberulae pilis stellatis minutissimis, deciduae. Petiolus longior, sed plerumque lamina brevior, robustior, pilis stellatis minutissimis vestitus, glabrescens. Lamina coriacea, ovata vel latissime elliptica, basi paulum cordata vel rotundata, apice breviter obtuse acuminata, margine integra, basi 5-nervata; costa validissima, ad apicem percurrens, sine nectario; nervi laterales 3—5, sicut nervi basales ceteri erecto-patentes, recti sed prope marginem sursum curvati et in venis ramosi; lamina in pagina superiore glabra, in pagina inferiore pilis stellatis minutissimis dispersis vestita, glabrescens. Flores solitarii in axillis superioribus. Pedunculus brevior, teres, paulum infra apicem articulatus, supra articulum subite incrassatus in discum obconicum, pili stellatus minutissimis dense vestitus, glabrescens. Epicalycis segmenta probabiliter circa 3, in speciminibus typi caduca. Calyx coriaceus, patelliformis, integer (sine dentibus vel segmentibus), extus pilis stellatis minutissimis dense ornatus, intus pilis simplicibus appressis et pilis stellatis minutis praeditus. Petala obovata, ad basin angustata, apice rotundata, margine crenata, in parte inferiore crassa, in parte superiore membranacea, extus ad basin pilis stellatis dense vestita, intus subglabra. Columna staminalis petalis brevior, ab ima basi usque ad apicem stamina gerens, glabra. Ovarium late pyriforme, acuminatum, velutinum pilis stellatis minutissimis, 10-loculare; ovula circa 2 per locu; stylus brevis, sulcatus, pilis stellatis vestitus; stigma clavatum, 5-sulcatum. Pedunculus post anthesim paulum elongatus et incrassatus. Calyx vehementer amplificatus, fructum non anguste involvens sed ab eo separatus. Fructus probaliter siccus et non dehisces, subapplanato-globosus, extus velutinus pilis stellatis minutissimis; fructus immaturus 10-locularis, seminibus 1—2 per locu — *Fig. 2.*

Holotype: N.G.F. 1277 (LAE).

*) I in Reinwardtia 4, 1956, 41–68.

Twigs 3—5 mm thick. Stipules 3—4 mm long and about 3 mm wide. Petiole 3—11 cm long and 1.5—2 mm thick. Blade 9—18 cm long and 6—11 cm wide. Peduncle 1.5—2 cm long and 2 mm thick; disc 8—10 mm in diameter and 6—7 mm high. Calyx 1.5—2 cm in diameter and about 7 mm high. Petals about 3.5 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. Staminal column about 1.5 cm long; filaments 3—4 mm long; anthers about 1.5 mm long. Ovary about 5 mm across and 4 mm high; style 1.5—2 cm long; stigma about 8 mm high. Calyx during fruiting up to 2.5 cm in diameter. Fruit about 2.5 cm across and 1.5—2 cm high.

Specimens examined.

NEW GUINEA. Eastern Part, Yalu: Collector unmentioned N. G. F. 871 (LAE), March 7, 1945; Brown R.: Allan & Jones N. G. F. 2756 (BO 116814, LAE), July-Aug. 1947; about 16 km W. of Embi Lakes (Buna hinterland), rain forest on a narrow spur, alt. c. 300 m: L. S. Smith N. G. F. 1277 (LAE, holotype), tree c. 43 m high, bole c. 21 m high and 0.4 m in diameter breast high, flowers yellow with red centre, March, 1945; 0.8 km from Itoto on Penari Track (Tufi Subdistr.), fringe of secondary forest, soil shallow, alt. c. 130 m: Saunders 54 (L 955.326-168), tree c. 10 m high, bole c. 5 m high and c. 15 cm in diameter, wood straw coloured, flowers brown to orange, fruit green, vern. name Augitura (ojob lang.); Normanby Isl., Waikaiuna, occasional in rain forest of lower slopes, 20 m alt.: Brass 25586 (L 957.295-422), tree about 30 m, trunk 50 cm in diameter, flowers yellow with purple centre, later red, Apr. 25, 1956.

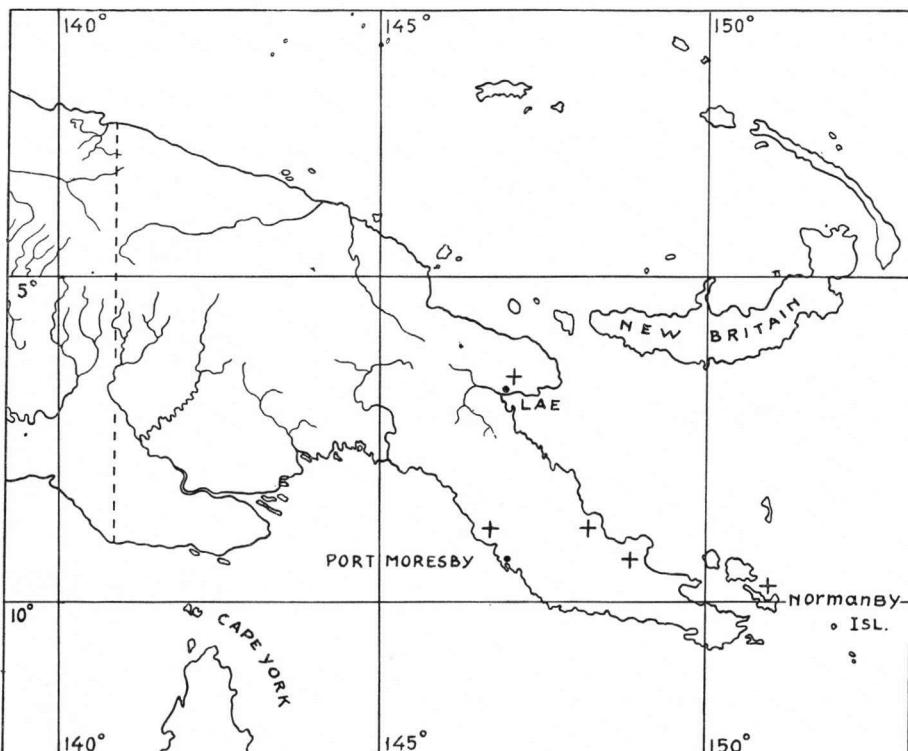


Fig. 1. Map showing the collecting localities of *Thespesia patellifera* Borss.

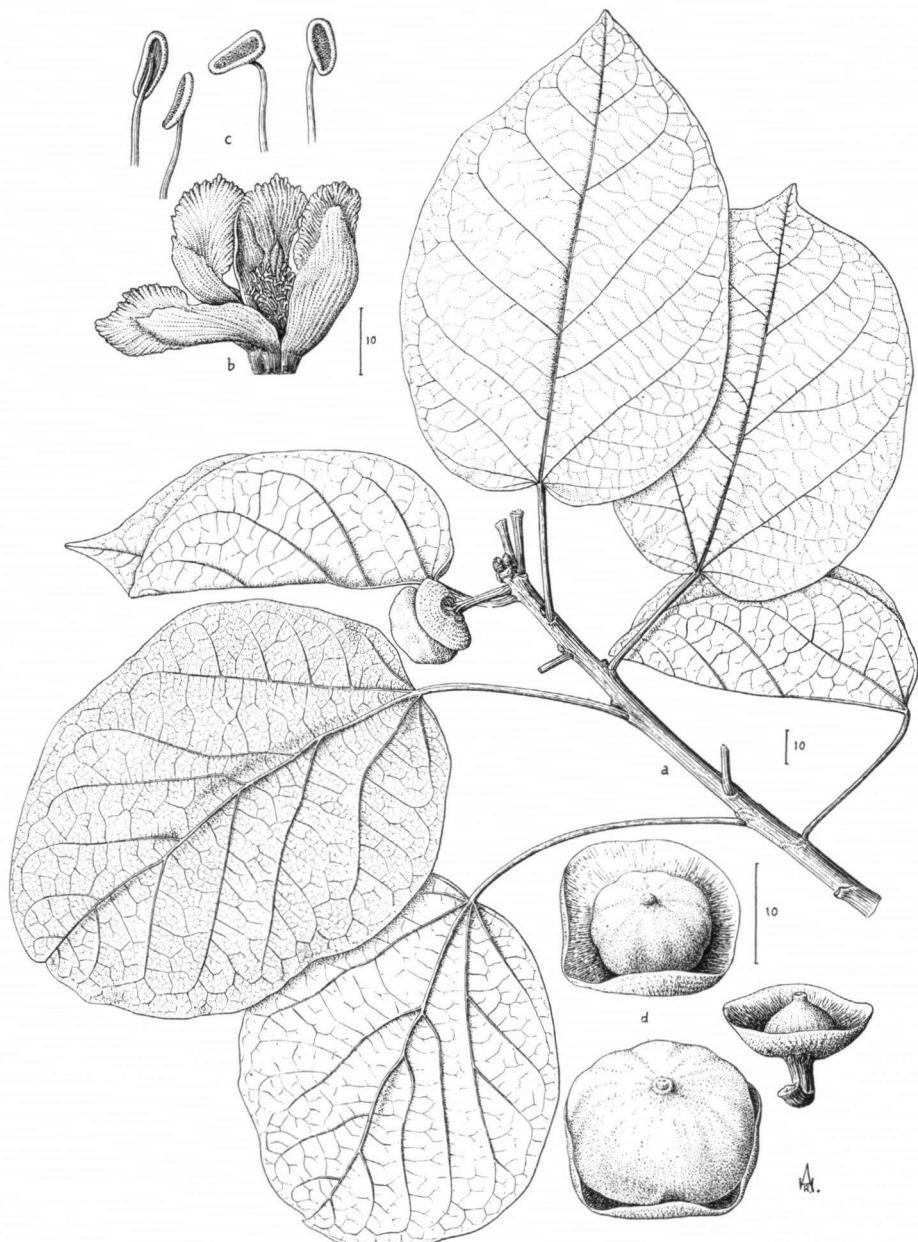


Fig. 2. *Thespesia patellifera* Borss., a. fruiting branch ($\frac{1}{2}$, \times), b. corolla with staminal column and stigma ($\frac{1}{2}$, \times), c. stamens ($5\frac{1}{2}$, \times), d. fruit with enveloping calyx in different stages (3 \times). (From holotype by Amir Hamzah)

This species is doubtless closely related to the wide-spread *Thespesia populnea* (L.) Soland. ex Corr. The main differences are summed up below. The number of epicalyx segments has been concluded from the scars found on top of the disc-like upper part of the peduncle. This number also occurs in *Thespesia populnea*. The crenature observed in the petals *in sicco*, may be owing to a plication possibly present *in vivo* when the petals are not yet full-grown. The name has been given on account of its peculiar calices remaining free from the fruits and resembling little plates.

Thespesia populnea

Indumentum mainly consisting of minute scales.

Blade *in vivo* somewhat fleshy, *in sicco* brittle.

Blade broadly ovate to deltoid, at the base mostly deeply cordate, at the apex very acute or gradually acuminate.

Blade mostly with sac-like glands between the basal nerves on the lower side.

Calyx with 5 small teeth.

Calyx not strongly enlarged after flowering, densely enclosing the fruit.

Thespesia patellifera

Indumentum mainly consisting of minute stellate hairs.

Blade *in vivo* apparently coriaceous, *in sicco* more or less tough.

Blade ovate to broadly elliptic, at the base shallowly cordate to rounded, at the apex abruptly obtusely acuminate.

Blade without sac-like glands.

Calyx entire.

Calyx strongly enlarged after flowering, free from the fruit.