The South African Camphor Tree. (*Cryptocarya vacciniifolia*, Stapf.)

Author(s): O. Stapf

Source: *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)*, Vol. 1915, No. 6 (1915), pp. 297-298

Published by: Springer on behalf of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4104575>

Accessed: 13-06-2016 00:45 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Springer are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)*

XXVII.—THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPHOR TREE.

(Cryptocarya vacciniifolia, Stapf.)

O. STAPF.

A tree known in South Africa as "Camphor tree" has recently been received for identification from Mr. I. B. Pole Evans, Chief of the Division of Botany, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria, and proves to be a new species of *Cryptocarya*, closely allied to *C. myrtifolia*, Stapf. The tree was discovered in the Wolf River Forest by Mr. J. D. Keet, Acting Assistant District Forest Officer, and the specimens sent to Kew were accompanied by concise notes, which have been of considerable assistance in drawing up a proper description of the tree, and have furnished the basis of the following information.

The tree is at present known to exist only in the Wolf River Forests and part of the adjoining Schwarzwald Forest, though a few specimens have been found in Flo Forest. It forms a fair percentage of the stocking in Wolf River, and is chiefly confined to ridges, but it may also be found at all elevations between 2500 and 4500 feet. The soil where it flourishes is a deep, rich, red dolerite loam. *Cryptocarya vacciniifolia* forms a tall tree, 80–90 feet high, with clean straight boles up to 60 feet in the best specimens and a diameter at breast height up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The crowns are dense, well shaped and picturesque. Here and there specimens have outgrown the Yellow-wood, Black Ironwood and other trees, and have their crowns fully exposed to the light. Natural regeneration from seed is fair, and all sizes from the seedling stage are found. Straight and rapid-growing adventitious shoots often form on the stem, and may reach 3 to 4 inches in diameter. The bark of young trees and the higher parts of old stems is dark, and resembles that of Black Bark (*Royena lucida*); ultimately it turns greyish, and is then easily confused with that of large-sized White Pear. The tree flowers profusely; the flowers are inconspicuous, but honey bees visit the tree when in flower in large numbers.

The boles are generally sound and of good shape, but are often somewhat fissured towards the base. There is a perceptible smell of camphor emanating from the leaves, bark, twigs and young wood during the dry season and a few days after felling in the rainy season. The timber is not known to have been put to any use up to the present. It splits easily like Assegai (*Curtisia faginea*) and White Pear (*Apodytes dimidiata*) in the green state, and is straight-grained. It is probably not sufficiently strong to be used for spokes, felloes, or other wagon timber, but it should prove exploitable for furniture.

There were up till now 6 species of *Cryptocarya* known from South Africa, one of them confined to the extreme South-West of Cape Province, the others occurring in Natal and Zululand, except *C. Woodii*, which extends westwards as far as King Williamstown Division. Of most of these very little is known, and the herbarium material extant is extremely scanty. It is therefore very desirable that more attention be paid to these

representatives of *Cryptocarya*, some of which will probably be found to be of economic value. Sim describes the wood of *C. Woodii*, Engl. (*C. acuminata*, Schinz) as hard and close-grained, and mentions another undescribed tree, frequent in E. Pondoland and Natal, which grows up to 60 feet in height and 3 feet in diameter. It is locally known as "Umtungwa," but so far no material has been supplied for scientific examination. It should be kept in mind that the foliage is more or less variable in the same species, according to the age or the parts of the tree. Leaf branches should therefore be collected from young trees, from the flowering region of old trees and from adventitious shoots.

The description of the tree is as follows:—

***Cryptocarya vacciniifolia*, Stapf** [Lauraceae]; *C. myrtifoliae*, Stapf, proxima, sed foliis minoribus minus acutis vel obtuse acuminatis supra medium latissimis subtus glaucis paulo brevius petiolatis, floribus et fructibus paulo majoribus distincta.

Arbor circiter 25 m. alta; ramuli juveniles graciles, fulvo-pubescentes, tandem glabrati, cortice nigro tecti. *Folia* obovata vel late obovato-lanceolata, basi subcuneata, apice breviter obtusiuscule acuminata, 2–3 cm. longa, 1–1.4 cm. lata, coriacea, primo utrinque fulvo-pubescentia, cito glabrescentia, tandem pilis paucis subtus circa areolas relictis supra imprimis in costa persistentibus, nervis lateralibus tenuibus utrinque 4–5, reticulatione arctissima supra foveolato-exsculpta; petiolus 2–4 mm. longus. *Paniculae* terminales, 1–1.25 cm. longae, densiusculae, ramulis paucifloris e foliorum 3 vel 4 proximorum axillis auctae, fulvo-pubescentes; bracteae caducae; bracteolae obsoletae; pedicelli ad 1 mm. longi. *Perianthium* campanulatum, 3.5–4 mm. longum, extus totum fulvo-cinereo-pubescentia; receptaculum intus in lineis a staminodiis decurrentibus dense pallide fulvo-tomentosum, caeterum glabrum; segmenta ovato-oblonga, subacuta, intus praeter margines latos tenues minute fulvo-pubescentes. *Staminum* filamenta tenuiter pubescentia; antherae breviter apiculatae; glandulae majusculae, globosae, tenuiter stipitatae. *Pistillum* glabrum. *Fructus* globosus 1–1.3 cm. diametro.

SOUTH AFRICA. Cape Province: King Williamstown Division; Wolf River Forests, Keet 1432.

XXVIII.—THE ARBORETUM AT TORTWORTH.

W. J. BEAN.

The collection of trees growing in the grounds of Tortworth Court, the home of the Earl of Ducie, has long been known to those interested in trees as one of the finest in the British Isles. It has several claims to distinction. The trees are admirably cultivated, the number of species grown is large, and many rare species are here represented by the finest specimens of their kind in England—often in Europe. There is also an interesting personal factor in the collection being entirely the work of the present Earl of Ducie, who has been an assiduous planter for