

A NEW SPECIES OF *LONGETIA*: THE BOTANICAL IDENTITY OF THE  
"PINK CHERRY" OF DORRIGO TIMBER-GETTERS.

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(One Text-figure.)

[Read 26th June, 1946.]

For some years past a timber from the Dorrigo Plateau, New South Wales, has been placed on the Sydney and Melbourne markets under the name of "Pink Cherry", but only recently has complete botanical material been made available which has enabled us to clear up its botanical identification. It belongs to the genus *Longetia*, as defined by Pax ('Das Pflanzenreich') and Pax and Hoffmann in their account of the Family Euphorbiaceae in the second edition of Engler and Prantl's "Die Naturlichen Pflanzenfamilien". It is with some hesitation, however, that we follow these authors in uniting *Buraevia* Baill. (New Caledonia) and *Choriophyllum* Benth. (Malaya) with *Longetia* Baill. (New Caledonia). Considering the high degree of endemism in the New Caledonia flora and its affinities with eastern Australia the geographical distribution of *Longetia* is remarkable: five species in New Caledonia, one in subtropical eastern Australia and one in Malaya. Our plant resembles in general facies the Queensland specimens of *Dissiliaria tricornis* Benth., and the one distinction between *Longetia* and *Dissiliaria*, as far as we can see, is the absence in the latter of a carunculus on the seed. *D. tricornis* Benth. is a "composite" species based on two collections, the one from Port Essington (A. Cunningham); the other from Rockingham Bay (Dallachy), and it is doubtful if they are the same. If all these genera are to be considered distinct, then our plant would come under *Buraevia*. It is very closely allied to *B. carunculata* Baill. which differs in having shorter, broader, emarginate leaves (4-7 cm. long, 3-4.5 cm. wide), glabrous male inflorescences, longer pedicels (up to 6 mm.) to the male flowers and nearly glabrous very young shoots.

We have pleasure in dedicating the species to Mr. E. H. F. Swain, Commissioner for Forests, New South Wales, in recognition of his services to Australian forestry, and, more particularly, for the strenuous efforts he has made to retain and increase the forest reserves in eastern Australia.

In the system as proposed by Pax and Hoffmann, Engler and Prantl, Vol. 19 c. (1931), our plant would be classified as follows:

Family Euphorbiaceae.

Subfamily Phyllanthoideae.

Tribe Phyllanthae : Subtribe Dissiliarinae.

*LONGETIA SWAINII*, n. sp. Fig. 1.

Arbor ad 40 m. alt., partibus novellis dense ferrugineo-pubescentibus, ramulis lenticellis parvis plus minusve dense obtectis. Folia opposita glabra petiolata, lanceolata, utrinque reticulata, margine undulato-crenulata, leviter incrassata vel recurvata, nervis praecipuis ca. 12 in utroque latere; lamina 7-11 cm. longa, 2-4 cm. lata; petiolus 5 mm. longus, pubescens. Flores parvi in thyrsos racemiformes 1-2 cm. longos dispositi, ramulis pedicellisque pubescentibus. Flores masculi: Sepala 4, patentia rotundata, imbricata, extus pubescentia intus pilis paucis vestita, 2 exteriora 1.5, 2 interiora 2.5 mm. diam., pedicellis ad 2 mm. longis; stamina 8, filamentis sepalis aequalibus, antheris dorsifixis extus dehiscentibus, disco in glandulos 4 divisio, ovarii rudimentum O. Flores foemini: Sepala 4, erecta, quam in mare angustiora et crassiora; ovarium in parte



superiore pilis strigosis dense vestitum, 2-loculare; stigma sessile, 2-lobum, lobis indivisis leviter papillois; ovula in loculis gemina. Capsula oblongo-ovoidea, ca. 1 cm. longa, 2-locularis, loculis abortu 1-spermis, exocarpio crustaceo in valvis 4 solubili; semina ab apice placentae centralis liberae pendula, plano-convexa vel latere interiore leviter concavo et canaliculo centrali notato, ad apicem carunculo flavo magno multifido-pectinato ornata, testa nitida castanea.

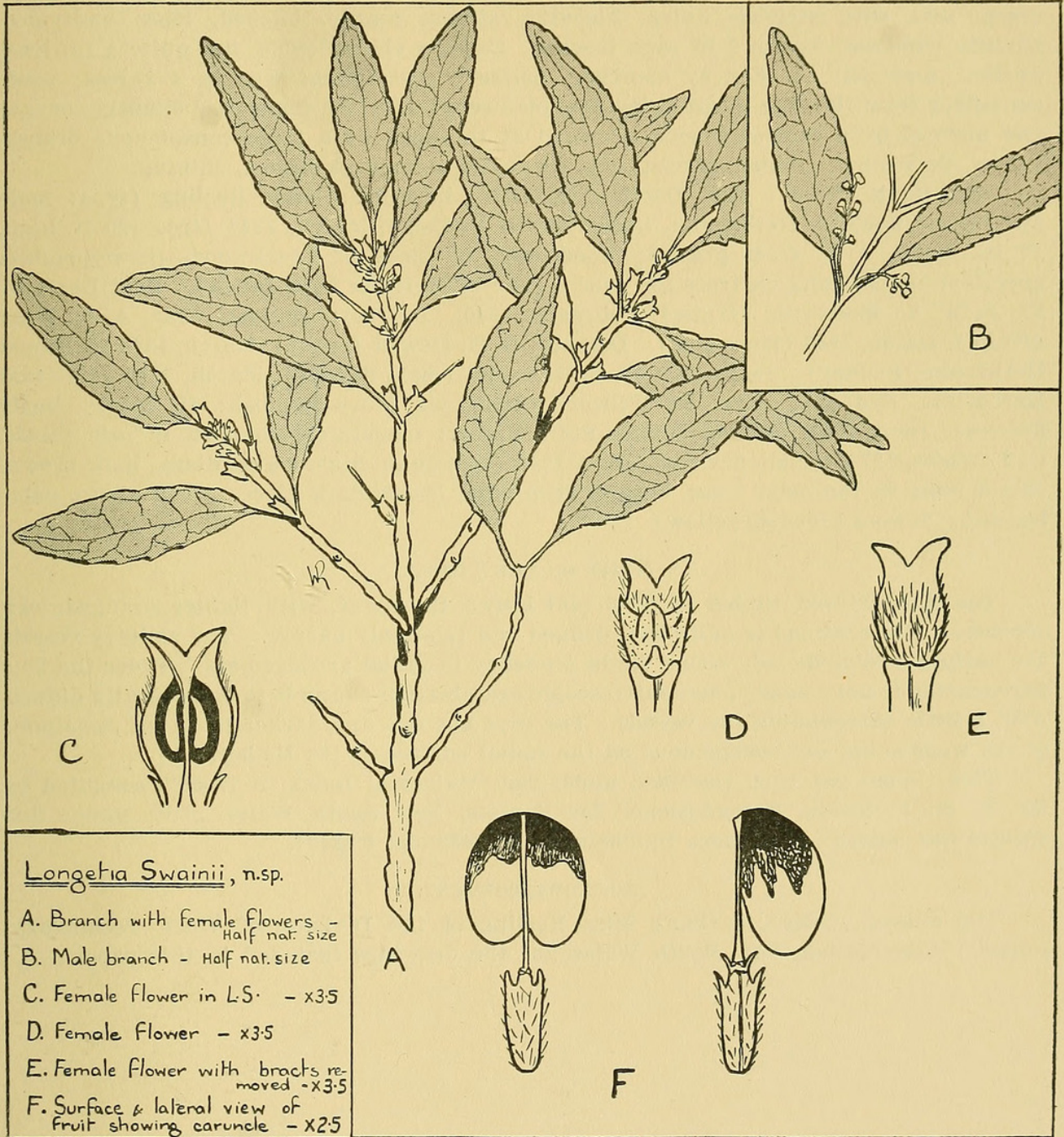


Fig. 1.

Tree up to 120 ft. high and 14 ft. girth, 4 ft. from ground, bark white and grey mottled, often scaly and peeling in small flakes, leaving circular depressions reminding one of Brown Bolly Wood or Bolly Gum (*Litsea reticulata*); very bitter. Branchlets at first densely rusty, pubescent, at length glabrous and clothed with a grey bark with numerous small lenticels. Sapwood white, timber red, like that of Rose Alder (*Ackama paniculosa*), but heavier. Leaves dark glossy green, opposite, glabrous, petiolate, lanceolate, plainly reticulate on both sides in the dried state, midrib yellow, secondary nerves and some of the net veins visible on both sides in the living leaf; margin undulate-crenate; principal nerves about 12 on each side of the midrib; blade 2-4½ in.



long,  $\frac{3}{4}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide; petiole  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. long, pubescent. Flowers small, arranged in a raceme-like thyse,  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long; branches and pedicels pubescent. Male flowers: sepals 4, spreading, rotund, imbricate, outer face pubescent, inner face clothed with a few hairs, the two outer ones  $\frac{1}{16}$  in., the two inner ones  $\frac{1}{10}$  in. diam., pedicels up to one-twelfth inch long. Stamens 8, filaments equalling the sepals, anthers dorsifixed, dehiscing outwards; disk divided into four glands; rudimentary ovary absent. Female flowers: sepals 4, erect, somewhat narrower and thicker than in the males; ovary densely clothed in the upper part with strigose hairs, 2-locular, stigma sessile, bilobed, lobes undivided, slightly papillose, ovules 2 in each loculus. Capsule oblong ovoid, not quite  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, 2-celled, each cell 1-seeded by abortion; pericarp crustaceous shed in 4 valves; seeds pendulous from the free central placenta, plano-convex or the inner face slightly concave and marked by a central groove, crowned at the apex by a large conspicuous orange-yellow, very much divided, almost lacy, caruncle; testa dark brown, shining.

New South Wales: East Dorrigo: plentiful in brush. Miss Rosling (type: male and female flowers—Herbarium, University of Sydney), March, 1944 (tree 120 ft. high, 17 in. diam., 4 ft. from ground; wood used in place of Coachwood—*Ceratopetalum apetalum*—seeds hang on trees for over a year after fruits have fallen). East Dorrigo: W. A. W. de Beuzeville (fruits), February, 1940. Dorrigo: common. Jas. A. R. King (fruits), March, 1946 (large tree). Dorrigo: G. H. Hewitt (fruits), March, 1946 (National Herbarium, Sydney). Bellingen: R. B. Rickerby (male flowers), March, 1940 (National Herbarium, Sydney). Head of Wilson's Creek, via Murwillumbah: H. Hayes (male flowers), June, 1944. Whian Whian State Forest: moderately common in rain forest. C. T. White, 12785 (male flowers), June, 1945 (tree 20 m. high, 0.5 m. diam., bark brown, rather scaly in the older trees, blaze a deep pink, leaves dark glossy green above, paler beneath; flowers greenish-yellow).

#### NOTES ON THE TIMBER.

The fine-textured timber is deep pink-brown in colour, with lighter orange-brown sapwood. The sapwood is quite well defined and relatively narrow. The solitary vessels are uniformly distributed, with a slight tendency to radial arrangement. Under the lens parenchyma is not conspicuous—microscopic examination shows it to be generally diffuse, with a little surrounding the vessels. The rays are fine and darker than the remainder of the wood—they are conspicuous on the radial surface of the timber.

This timber has been classified under the "Universal Index to Wood", compiled by Mr. E. H. F. Swain, Commissioner for Forests, New South Wales, after whom this species was named. The Index numbers are 9.22432 and 9.22424.

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