

OUTRAGEOUSLY PRESUMPTUOUS!

AGAIN

Breadfruit, Artocarpus altilis (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg.

AND

Tahiti-Chestnut, Inocarpus fagifer (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg.

Otto (*kane) & Isa (*wahine) Degener
Authors, Flora Hawaiiensis

To make a long story still longer, I wish to explain that my mother's great-great-grandfather and my father's great-grandfather was the same man, to wit Friedrich Christian Ludwig Henneberg (1748-1812), Private Secretary to Duke Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand in Braunschweig (Brunswick). After Napoleon conquered the Duchy, Henneberg, under Napoleon's brother Jerome, became regent. This and more we explain in our Flora Hawaiiensis 2/15/66. French influence naturally at that time eclipsed the German. Johann Philipp du Roi (1741-1785), Court Physician (Hof-medicus) and botanist, was seven years younger than Henneberg, and hence their families evidently fraternized and danced the French minuet at the Ducal Court. How keen a physician du Roi may have been we have no way of telling; but he was a busy correspondent of the younger Linnaeus, who named the Rubiaceae genus Duroia in his honor in 1781. Du Roi published on Botany, one of his books being reprinted in several revised editions even after his death.

In 1907 (and again in 1910) my parents and I sailed from our home in New York City to visit relatives in Germany and Austria. In Braunschweig I was introduced to two elderly "Vetter" or cousins, evidently on my father's side of the family rather than on my mother's. Their names were pronounced "Dürwa," but spelled differently. Richard du Roi, the elder, held some government post in Berlin; while his younger brother (old to me) owned a cigar factory in Braunschweig. My cousins did not interest me in the least. But the younger, who lived in the suburbs, had the hobby of raising yokohama or phoenix fowl, which kept me fascinated when not interrupted by tasty afternoon coffee or chocolate with whipped cream and petits fours. Du Roi frequently won awards at Poultry Shows throughout Europe. His roosters were raised on high perches reminiscent of those to which parrots are now tethered. Thus they did not damage their tail and sickle feathers, which grew 10 to 15 feet long. To let them be dragged along the floor of a chicken coop would have been disastrous. The yokohama breed, originally from Kōchi Prefecture, is so unique that the Japanese Government in 1922 ruled it a natural monument.

*Kane, Hawaiian vernacular for "man"; wahine, for "woman."

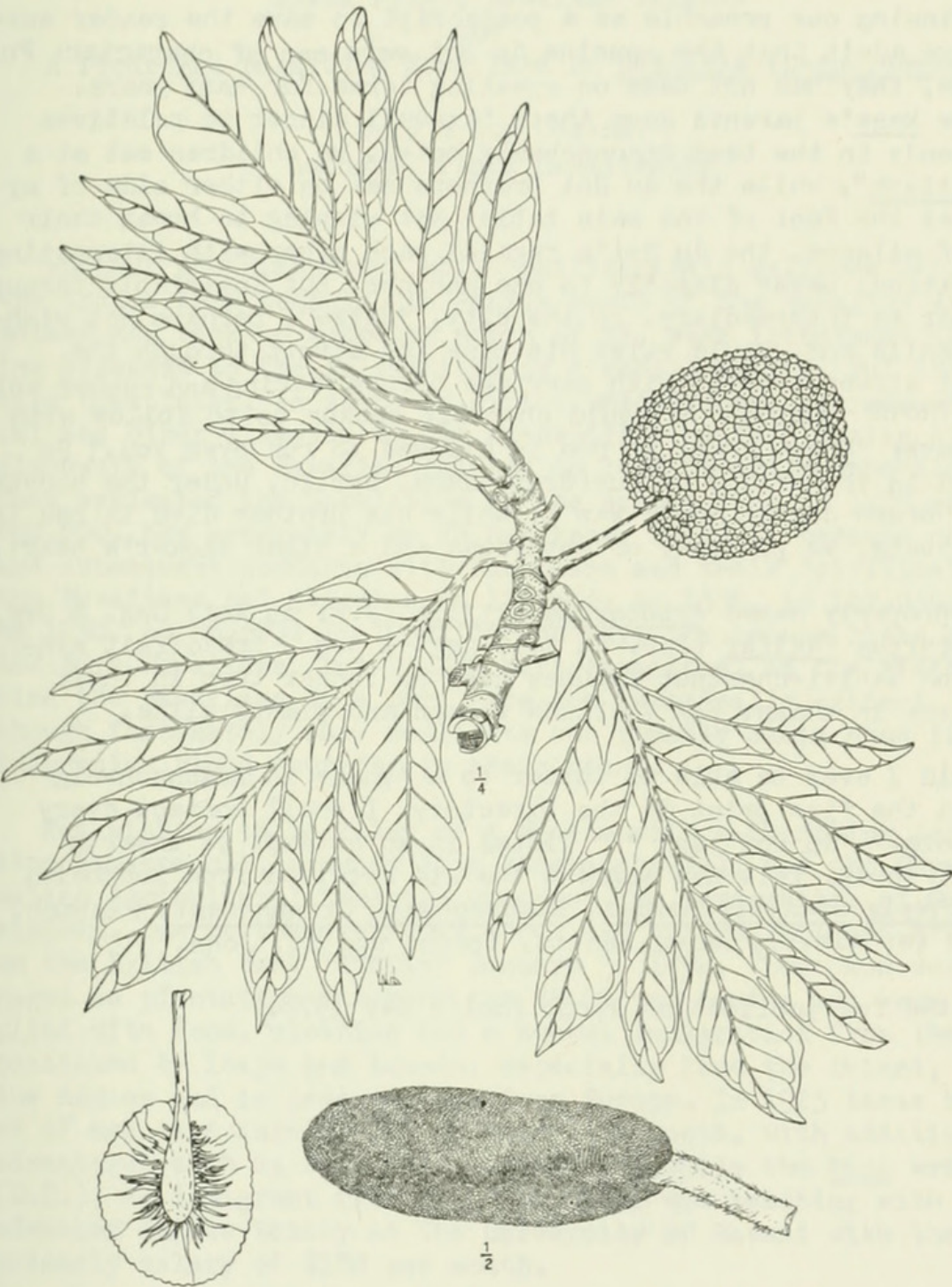
With the above preamble ended for the present, we wish to consider the proper scientific name of the breadfruit and of the Tahiti-chestnut. For years the former taxon has gone under the name Artocarpus communis J.R. & G. Foster, Char. Gen. 101. 1776. The specific name communis is antedated, however, by altilis, the trivial name in the combination Sitodium altile. This 1773 nomen nudum of Parkinson was legalized by the mysterious botanist "Z" in his "Die Pflanzen der Insel Outahitoe, aus der Parkinsonischen Reisebeschreibung gezogen, und mit Anmerkungen erläutert von Z." Der Naturforscher 4:240. 1774. Without knowing who "Z" might be, it seems to us a bit premature or presumptuous to officially name the breadfruit Artocarpus altilis (Parkinson ex "Z") Fosb., in Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. 31(3):95. 1939.

According to Recommendation 46C of the Code, "When a name has been proposed but not validly published and ascribed to him by another author, the name of the former author followed by the connecting word ex may be inserted before the name of the publishing author." To unburden ourselves of dead wood so to speak, we desire dropping reference to the artistic youngster Sydney Parkinson hardly out of his teens. This is in good taste, as the following shows: "If it is desirable or necessary to abbreviate such a citation," the good book states, "the name of the publishing author, being the more important, should be retained." Thus we could shorten the presumed scientific name to read Artocarpus altilis ("Z") Fosb. Yet this is prohibited according to Article 46, a mandate and not a recommendation. It states that "For the indication of the name of a taxon to be accurate and complete and in order that the date may be readily verified, it is necessary to cite the name of the author who first validly published the name concerned - - -." Realizing the "Z" is hardly a name, we consider the binomial printed in 1939 not validly published and hence ignore it.

After reading Herman Manitz' fascinating "Friedrich Ehrhart und die Publikation des 'Supplementum Plantarum' von Linné Filius." Taxon 25(2/3):305-322. May 1976, we personally pounced upon pages 305, 311, 313-315, 319 and 320, especially noting with gusto page 314. The "Z" and "Sz" stand respectively for Johann Philipp du Roi and presumably for "Sage" or "saying" of du Roi. When he published his binomial for the breadfruit du Roi was 33 years old. We here publish our version of the correct binomial, citing the original synonym beneath:

ARTOCARPUS ALTILIS (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.
Syn. Sitodium altile J.P. du Roi in Der Naturforscher 4:240.
1774.

Applying the same reasoning to the Tahiti-chestnut, which the kane writer knew from Fiji (Degener, O. Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji. Pp. 76, 131, 215. 1949.), we here publish our version, with original synonym beneath:



Breadfruit

INOCARPUS FAGIFER (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.

Syn. Anistum fagifer J.P. du Roi in Der Naturforscher 4:230. 1774.

Continuing our preamble as a postscript to save the reader suspense, we admit that the cousins du Roi were men of character: For instance, they had not been on speaking terms for many years. When the kane's parents gave their farewell dinner to relatives and friends in the best Braunschweig hotel, we children sat at a "Katzentisch", while the du Roi brothers sat on either side of my mother at the foot of the main table. Not wishing to break their habit of silence, the du Roi's regaled each other with interesting conversation, never directly to one another, but invariably through my mother as intermediary. In the city, "Ratze", perhaps not wishing a senile end, would raise his cane and strutt through the thickest street traffic with carriage horses rearing and rubber automobile horns blaring. He would cheerily beckon us to follow with the remark: "Komm, komm, no one is allowed to run over you." He perished in the middle of Kurfürstendamm, Berlin, under the hooves of two horses during World War I; while his brother died in bed in Braunschweig, we presume, of emphysema and a cigar smoker's heart.

Now properly named Artocarpus altilis (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., and Inocarpus fagifer (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., breadfruit syncarps and Tahiti-chestnut legumes need no longer turn in their imu graves in shame. FAX VOBISCUM to men and plants alike.

Should I ever be able to totter to a 'phone in Braunschweig and read the fine print in the Directory, I shall contact every "Henneberg," "du Roi" and "Z" listed in an attempt to unearth familial roots. This may augment the aid received from Buchheim, Braunschweig Stadtkirchenamt, Braunschweig Ordnungsamt, Fambach, Fosberg (sphalm?), Karg, Manitz, Specht und St. John.

(Submitted for publication April Fool's Day 1978.)



Degener, Otto and Degener, Isa. 1978. "Outrageously presumptuous! Again Breadfruit, *Artocarpus altilis* (J. P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg. and Tahiti-Chestnut, *Inocarpus fagifer* (J. P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg." *Phytologia* 39, 143–146.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/47392>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/154474>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

The LuEsther T Mertz Library, the New York Botanical Garden

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Phytologia

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.