*Cunuria crassipes* Mueller-Argoviensis in Martius
Fl. Bras. 11, pt. 2 (1874) 510.

Additional collections and detailed field studies of *Cunuria crassipes* have brought out the fact that this is one of the most interesting species of this genus. These new collections were made in the Rio Uaupés area where the collections of Dr. John T. Baldwin and Mr. Paul H. Allen had indicated the abundance of the species (Baldwin et Schultes in Bot. Mus. Leafl. Harvard Univ. 12 (1947) 336). It was thought, until recently, that *Cunuria crassipes* represented a highly localized endemic, but Mr. George A. Black, of the Instituto Agronômico do Norte, collected it in 1946 in a caatinga-like area near the headwaters of the Rio Hamacayacu near Leticia in Colombia, a very great distance from the Uaupés drainage-area, but geologically probably representing the same discontinuous highland remnants which persist, with remarkably similar and peculiar floras, from the Venezuela-Guiana mountain chain across the western part of the Amazonas in Colombia, Brazil and into Peru.

Almost all collections of *Cunuria crassipes* have noted that the tree is buttressed. Examination of a large number of individuals indicates that this is true, but the buttresses are usually small, rarely higher than 3 feet and not spreading out very far from the trunk. In this, *Cunuria crassipes* is quite distinct from *C. Spruceana*, which usually has gigantic, spreading buttresses.

The bark of *Cunuria crassipes* has not been described except by Allen (*Allen 3068*) who stated: "Bark thin, averaging less than 1 cm." The bark of this species is highly characteristic, and the tree can be recognised at a great distance by the curious bark. It is dark brown, not light reddish brown as in *Cunuria Spruceana*, and is very shaggy and rough, not smooth as in other species. It is hard and averages less than 1 cm. in many trees which were measured.

Baldwin and Schultes (loc. cit. 339) reported, on the basis of the available collections: "Little is known about the latex of *Cunuria crassipes*. In *Allen 3068*, it was yellowish, scant, coagulating to a non-elastic gum", while in *Baldwin 3673* and *3675*, the color of the latex is reported to be white. In the many trees examined in the area of the lower Vaupés, the latex was invariably a pure white; it is thick, quite abundant for the genus, sticky (apparently with a high resin content) coagulating with difficulty to a sticky, non-elastic gum.

*reclinata, versus nervum centralem angulatim 120° plicata,

*sicco stramineis,

~~*~~ ~~vel obscurissima~~

fruit of # green measured 38 mm × 30 mm

*atroviride,

*Cunuria tukanorum* R.E. Schultes et Murça spec. nov.

Arbor monoecia, usque ad 65 pedes alta (sed usualiter minora), usque ad 10 - 12 pol. in diametro (maxima pro parte multo minora), columnaris sine radicibus tabularibus; tenuissimo cum cortice cinereo vel in partibus altioribus brunneo, 2-3 mm. crasso; copioso pro genere succo lacteo albo. Folia valdissime coriacea, perfecte ovata vel elliptico - rotundata*, omnino glaberrima, in specimine typico statu adulta 13 — 25 cm. longa, 10 — 15 cm. lata (maxima pro parte majores), apice valde rotundata, basi cordata, marginata, supra atroviridia, infra pallidiora; venis secundariis 12 - 14*, subtus non elevatis, superficie inferiore valde elevatis, arcuato - adscendentibus, sub marginem ipsum tenuiter anastomosantibus, tertiis prominentioribus reticulatis subparallelis. Petiolus crassus, sicco striato - fibrosus, 3-7 cm. longus, 2-3 mm. in diametro; glandulis comparate magnis. Flores adhuc ignoti. Fructus ellipsoideus, apice rotundatus*, leviter trisulcatus, vivo 33 mm × 28 mm., sicco 28 mm. × 24 mm., epicarpio glabro, 2-3 mm. crasso, fibroso*, endocarpio lignoso, tenuissimo, 1 mm. crasso; valvis partientibus non contortis; pedunculo probabiliter robustiore. Semina adhuc ignota sed pro genere parva.

BRAZIL: Estado do Amazonas - Rio Uaupés, right bank, at base of Serra Tukano. "Small tree in caatinga forest. Abundant, in association with *Hevea nitida* and *H. pauciflora*. Trunk columnar, not buttressed, 50 ft. tall, 8 inches

in diameter. Bark checked, gray or reddish brown above, hard, thin, peeling from cambium freely, red internally. Wood white, relatively hard. Leaves heavily coriaceous, marginate, folded along midrib forming an angle of 120°. Latex thick, white, sticky, not coagulating easily, relatively abundant. Tikuno name: wah-puch-á-tá-pua-shĕ (= cunurí of the caatinga)." Richard Evans Schultes et João Murça 8999 November 7, 1947. (TYPUS).

Same locality. "Sterile. Columnar tree 65 ft. tall, diameter 10-12 inches, not buttressed. Latex fairly abundant, white, sticky, not coagulating easily. Bark smooth, reddish brown outside, red inside. Leaves coriaceous, marginate, folded along midrib, reclinate. In caatinga-forest." Richard Evans Schultes et João Murça 9000, November 7, 1947.

The closest ally of *Cunuria tukanorum* appears to be *C. glabra*. Whereas the latter is a corpulent, heavily buttressed tree of savannah (similar to caatinga) country of British and Dutch Guiana, the former is a slender tree devoid of buttresses so characteristic of the genus. There are also other differences. The leaves of *Cunuria glabra* tend, in general, to be somewhat smaller than those of *C. tukanorum* and also appear to have had in life a waxy glaucescence on the upper surface, a character not present in *C. tukanorum*. The fruit of *Cunuria* *tukanorum* is much smaller (33 × 28 mm.) than that of *C. glabra* (55-60 mm. × 30), and the capsule of the former is perfectly rounded at the apex whereas that of the latter tends to be somewhat tapering. When seeds and flowers of the new species are known, new differences doubtlessly will be found.

The common name *cunurí da caatinga*, in the Rio Uaupés area, refers to *Cunuria crassipes*. This species grows in light forest on white sand with superficial rocks, but does not, in spite of its common name, inhabit real caatinga. *Cunuria tukanorum* is found in true caatinga.

In the Tukano Indian language, *Cunuria tukanorum* is referred to as *wah-puch'-a-ta pua-shĕ*, which means "cunurí of the caatinga". Although the common name *cunurí da caatinga* refers, amongst those inhabitants of the region who speak Portuguese, to *Cunuria crassipes* exclusively, the Tukanos call this species *wah-so'-nĕ-nĕ*.

*Cunuria tukanorum* appears to be much richer in latex than the other two species of the area. The latex is thick, white, and it coagulates between the fingers with great difficulty forming a sticky mass which is not elastic and which appears to be high in resin content.

Euphorbiaceae (From Löfgren):

I. 2 sementes por loculo; plantas sem vasos lateferos e sem tecido libriforme medullar; prefloração do calice masculino imbricada

✓ Phyllantheae

II. loculos unispermos; vasos lactiferos presentes ou faltam; ás vezes ha tecido libriforme typico

A. Inflorescencias parciaes sem cyathios

1. Estames incurvos na prefloração, com a anthera para baixo; calice masculino imbricado ou valvar, em regra sem petalas; flores em espigas ou racemos terminaes; as flores femininas ás vezes agglomeradas por baixo de uma bractea.

✓ Crotoneae

2. Estames erectas na prefloração

a) calice masculino valvar, raro imbricado

+ Flores masculinas em regra apetalas; inflorescencia racemosa, espiga ou panicula

✓ Acalypheae

++ Flores masculinas apetalas ou não; inflorescencia panicula, em dichasio, laxa, raro densa

✓ Jatropheae

+++ Flores masculinas apetalas, em racemos ou espigas simples, terminaes

✓ Manihoteae

b) Calice masculino imbricado

+ Flores masculinas com petalas, as

inflorescencias parciaes axillares ou terminaes, espigas ou paniculas

✓ Cluytieae

†† Flores masculinas apetalas; inflorescencias parciaes agglomeradas em espigas ou paniculas axillares; vasos lactiferos ramificados

✓ Gelonieae

††† Flores masculinas apetalas; inflorescencias parciaes terminaes, espigadas, raro axillares; vasos simples

✓ Hippomaneae

B. As inflorescencias parciaes em cyathios

✓ Euphorbieae

Tribu Phyllantheae

Flores monoicas ou dioicas, raro com calice e corolla, em regra apetalas; estames livres ou adelphos, erectos na prefloração; 2 sementes por loculo; arvores, arbustos, ou subarbustos em regra com flores pequenas e folhas glabras; muitas vezes com cellulas tanniferas, mas sem vasos lactiferos

I. Folhas alternas, inteiras

A. Flores masculinas em inflorescencias agglomeradas, axillares.

1. Endosperma grosso; estames livres; disco anneliforme.

✓ Savia

2. Sem endosperma

a) Flores masculinas em regra com pe-

talos, as femininas solitarias

+ Pistillo desenvolvido, dobrado, foliaceo; estames sobre um androphoro curto; cotyledones dobrados

✓ Discocarpus

++ Estigma sessil, discoforme; cotyledones carnosos

✓ Amanoa

b) Flores apetalas

+ Estiletes e ramos finos, ás vezes dilatados no apice; flores masculinas agglomeradas, femininas solitarias

o) Flores masculinas com rudimento de ovario; estiletes 2 - 8 ramosos

✓ Securinega

oo) Flores masculinas sem rudimento de ovario; disco desenvolvido

✓ Phyllanthus

++ Estiletes muito dilatados, patentes; em regra com rudimento de ovario nas flores masculinas; ovario 1-2 locular

✓ Drypetes

B Flores masculinas em espigas ou racemos axillares e simultaneamente subterminaes, até paniculadas

1) Disco das flores masculinas cyathiformes; ovario 2-, raro 3-locular

✓ Hieronymia

2) Disco das flores masculinas em glandulas;

ovario 3-locular; sepalas 3-4; estames 3-4

✓ Richeria

II. Folhas alternas, 3-digitadas; flores masculinas apetalas; sepalas 4-6; estames 8-10; fruto capsula

✓ Piranhea

Tribu Crotoneae

Flores monoicas ou dioicas, pelo menos as masculinas com petalas; estames incurvos na prefloração; sem rudimento do ovario nas flores masculinas; uma semente por loculo; arvores, arbustos e subarbustos glabros ou com toda especie de indumento; ovario typicamente 3-locular. Inflorescencia terminal, racemo ou espiga.

I. Sepalas iguaes, raro desiguaes, sem appendice dorsal

✓ Croton

II Sepalas desiguaes, em regra com 1-2 appendices dorsaes; espigas mais densas que no genero precedente

✓ Julocroton

Schultes, Richard Evans. 1947. "Rio Negro and Rio Vaupés, Amazonas, Brazil [Plant Descriptions]. September-November, 1947." *Field notebook : Rio Negro and Rio Vaupés, Amazonas, Brazil, 1947 September-November*