

# ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF A SPECIES OF EUCALYPTUS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

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In the Botany of the United States Exploring Expedition during the years 1838-1842, under the command of Charles Wilkes, U. S. Navy,<sup>a</sup> there is given<sup>b</sup> an account of a plant found near Caldera, Mindanao, one of the Philippine Islands. Leaves and fruits were available, and Asa Gray says, "I thus record the plant under the name *Eucalyptus multiflora* Rich, given by Mr. Rich<sup>c</sup> in the collection."

Bentham refers<sup>d</sup> to this specimen in the following words:

A fifth species of *Eucalyptus* from a still more distant region, Mindanao, one of the Philippine Islands, is described by A. Gray in the Botany of the American Exploring Expedition,<sup>e</sup> under the name of *E. multiflora* Rich, from a specimen in leaf, and with a panicle of old fruits from which the calyx limb and operculum, if any, are fallen away and the open capsules have lost all their seeds. The four-celled (not three-celled) capsule is the only character leading us to suppose that it may be a *Eucalyptus* rather than a *Tristania* or a *Metrosideros*. No mention of it occurs in Blanco's Flora.

It will thus be seen that the very identity of the genus of this plant was doubted by an eminent authority.

A short time ago, through the kindness of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., I was able to examine Gray's specimen. It is No. 25483 of the U. S. National Herbarium, and as it turns out to be identical with *Eucalyptus naudiniana* F. v. Müller, *E. multiflora* Rich, must fall because the name is preoccupied (*E. multiflora* Poiret, probably a synonym of *E. pilularis* Smith).<sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Phanerogamia by Asa Gray, I, 1854.

<sup>b</sup>Page 554.

<sup>c</sup>William Rich, botanist of the U. S. ship *Relief*. In Captain Wilkes' narrative Mr. Rich's name is given as one who made an excursion from Manila, and he speaks of "our botanical gentlemen botanizing in the forests of Mindanao."

<sup>d</sup>Journ. Linn. Soc. (Botany), X, p. 143.

<sup>e</sup>Page 554.

<sup>f</sup>See DC. Prod., III, p. 217, under *E. persicifolia* Lodd.

There are so few Eucalypti found outside Australia that the question of the identity of one found beyond the limits of that continent is of interest, and the occurrence of the genus in the Philippines is now set at rest and doubtless its range in that group will be ascertained by American botanists.

*E. naudiniana* F. v. Müller is so little known that the following notes in regard to it may be acceptable. It was described by Müller in the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy,<sup>a</sup> under the title of Description of a hitherto unrecorded species of Eucalyptus from New Britain. New Britain is of course now a German possession under the name of Bismarck Archipelago.

A correspondent in that group writes to me:

*Eucalyptus naudiniana* is common in New Pommern, though not in the Ralun district, where I live. It grows especially on the rivers, from the coast to the mountains, and is so common in the forests that two sawmills have been started especially for this timber. The timber is not so hard as the Australian Eucalyptus but still good, useful timber.

I know of no locality for the species other than that indicated in this paper.

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<sup>a</sup>July, 1886.