

Supplementary Material

Rumphius and *Eucalyptus*

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Arbor Versicolor - *Ay Alla* [Locations are interpreted on Figure 2; reference to plant species are interpreted in square brackets with reference to Merrill (1917)]

A little known tree, which we call *Arbor Versicolor* (Multi-coloured tree), seems to be related to the previous water-trees, as it grows in wet sand and mud-flats, so we will add it here, particularly because of its uncommon bark. It rises up on a very straight and high trunk, with branches emerging at the top. The leaves look very similar to the ones of the Lolaro [there is a small island called Goura Lolaro in the North Maluku group], or the bay leaves of our country [*Laurus nobilis*], with a narrow tip and random small veins. The mid-rib is underneath very sharp, like the Mangi-Mangis [Not identifiable from Rumphius' plate 31]; the leaves are five thumbs [inches] long and two wide. When dry they turn black in colour at the inside, and light grey at the outside.

The fruits and flowers are like the ones of the clove [*Syzygium aromaticum*], at the front divided in pointed ends like one can observe on Caryophylloides. The bark is thin and completely smooth, mostly white, but usually scaly or flaky with prominent colours of red, yellow and green. Seen from a distance it has the colour of a rainbow, particularly when the rising or setting sun shines on it. However, seen at close quarters the bark looks like beautiful paintings of landscapes, as if they are cut from paper and glued on the inner bark. These colours fade easily when the tree is felled, due to the great quantity of moisture oozing out of it.

The wood is coarsely fibrous, white, spongy and soft, showing many thin circles, almost like the wood of a Banana tree or *Mangium album* [*Sonneratia*], but finer and denser. It is not durable and has no use whatsoever.

Name In Latin it is called *Arbor Versicolor*, because of the variety of colours of the bark. In Amboina it is called *Ay Alla*, which could be interpreted as Tree of God, possibly because of the beauty of its 'paintings'.

Location This tree is rare, and until now only seen in the Bay of Hatuwe on the North

Coast of Ceram , where it occurs on the sandy banks of a few rivers among Mangi-Mangi trees, mostly by the Bay of Sawai, and by the river Sapalewa between Tulessey and Sawai.

Use The tree is not being used by the indigenous peoples and only known as a subject of admiration due to its “paintings”, and was brought to my attention by the Moors of Hitoe [Hitu] only in 1668.

Caju Cawan, growing by the large river of Hatti Hauw on its sandy banks, is undoubtedly the same tree as the Ay Alla since it has the same (corresponding) bark, and, further, because the old bark peels off in strips the thickness of parchment and underneath a new bark with the same colour appears, et cetera.

The indigenous people keep these strips accrediting - in my view - great powers to them and using them as treatment for all kinds of illnesses of the body, in particular when the body feels heavy and unwell, or against ingested poison. They chew these strips together with Siri Pinang [Betel nut].

Yet another species of this tree can be found in the mountains of the same district Hatti Hauw, and is known to the Alfur people [from Ceram]. The bark of this tree is so smooth and slippery that not even ants can run on it. Its bark is coloured in wide patches, the shape of flowers or of the clothes or rugs called Sarassa, which is the reason why it is called in Malay Caju Sarassa.

Rumphius has added in his supplement (Auctuarium Volume VII Rumpf, G E [Rumphius, n.d.): they call the tree also Caju Swangi due to the fact it is so slippery that no one can climb it.

Plate LXXX (Fig. 2a) shows a Branch of the multi-coloured Tree called Ay Alla. A. Shows its multicoloured bark.