

## Hawaiian trees—a criticism

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In the March number of the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for 1917 (44: 145-157), there appeared a paper by Vaughan MacCaughey, entitled "An annotated list of the forest trees of the Hawaiian Archipelago." The paper, which the author describes as the first "comprehensive and concise check list" of the Hawaiian forest trees, is by no means exhaustive. The nomenclature has apparently been copied in its entirety from my book on the indigenous trees of the Hawaiian Islands, published in 1913, and certain more recent articles on critical families, in which species from the islands are described, are not considered.

That the author's knowledge of Hawaiian plants is incomplete is evidenced by his remarks under *Pritchardia*, where he states, "there are at least two well-defined species, *P. Gaudichaudii* H. Wendl. and *P. Martii* H. Wendl." These two species are not at all well defined. Their types, in fact, which Dr. Beccari and I have examined in the Webb herbarium at Florence, Italy, consist of immature leaf specimens only, and their published descriptions are extremely meager. Neither of the two species has been collected again in a wild state since its original discovery, and of *P. Gaudichaudii* no cultivated specimens are extant. It was supposed to have been found on a rock islet off the windward coast of Molokai, not far from the leper colony. Nine other species of *Pritchardia*, however, are now known from the Hawaiian Islands. These species are all well defined and are all represented by complete living and herbarium material. An extensive publication by Beccari,\* in which full descriptions may be found, seems to be unknown to the author.

Besides the works dealing with *Pritchardia*, there are several other instances of unfamiliarity with the recent literature which might be cited. Heimerl's paper on certain genera of the Nyctag-

\* Contributo alla conoscenza delle Palme. *Webbia* 4: 143-240. f. 1-17. 1913. See also Rock, J. F., A new species of *Pritchardia*. *Bull. Torrey Club*, 43: 385-387. pl. 21 + f. 1. 1916.

inaceae\* is a case in point. In this work the Hawaiian representatives of the family are completely revised, and the genus *Pisonia*, of which MacCaughey lists three species, is no longer recognized as occurring in the Hawaiian Archipelago, one species being made the type of the new genus *Rockia* and the other two being transferred to the genus *Calpidia*. Martelli's publications on the Pandanaceae,† in which species from the Hawaiian Islands are described, Loesener's work on the Aquifoliaceae,‡ in which the synonymy of the Hawaiian species of *Ilex* is revised, and my own paper on the Santalaceae§ are also completely ignored.

To my mind a check list is of doubtful value unless brought up to date. The copying and publishing of names without proper revision and study is certainly not desirable.

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\* Die Nytaginaceen-Gattungen *Calpidia* und *Rockia*. Oesterr. Bot. Zeitschr. 63: 279-290. 1913.

† Enumerazione delle Pandanaceae. Webbia 3: 307-327. 1910; 4: 1-105. pl. 1-17. 1913. Le specie e varietà nuove di "*Pandanus*" menzionate nella enumerazione delle Pandanaceae. Ibid. 4: 399-435. pl. 18-43. 1914.

‡ Monografia Aquifoliacearum—I. Nova Acta Acad. Leop.-Carol. 78. 1901.

§ The sandalwoods of Hawaii. A revision of the Hawaiian species of the genus *Santalum*. Hawaii Board Agr. & Forest. Bot. Bull. 3: 1-43. pl. 1-13. 1916.