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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	835	Press / Mis.
Dated	28. 5.	1968/75

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1
835

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th May 1875.

No. 330. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1875, No. 1,247, Forest, No. 82 :—

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 23rd March 1875, No. 577 :—

In reply to the Proceedings of Government, dated the 15th October 1874, No. 1,325, communicated with the Revenue Board's endorsement, dated the 7th November 1874, Forest, Miscellaneous No. 311/7,772, I have the honor to state that the tree producing wood-oil in this district is a species of *Dipterocarpus*, and is either the *Dipterocarpus Lœvis* (Hamilton), *Dipterocarpus Turbinatus* (Roxburgh) or *Dipterocarpus Indicus* (Beddome). The tree is called by the natives " yenne mara" (oil tree), and the present interest in it is confined to the oil extracted. I incline to the opinion that the yenne mara of Canara is the *Dipterocarpus Turbinatus.*

2. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mr. Cherry, who calls the tree *Dipterocarpus Indicus* (Beddome), informs me that its timber is reported to be useless, but he himself thinks that, if sufficiently known, it would have the market value of Poonspar, a tree it much resembles.

3. I am inclined to think that the tree is worthy of attention, both for the oil it yields and the timber it produces.

4. According to Dr. Balfour, the " trunk of the tree (*D. Lœvis*) grows to an immense size, and the tree yields in abundance the thin balsam well known in all the Indian bazaars and called the Gurjun or wood-oil. It also produces a very useful timber which is sawn into boards * * * and used in house-building. Where not exposed to the wet, they answer as well as teak." If, on the other hand, the tree that grows in this district is the *Dipterocarpus Turbinatus* it is not the less valuable, as it is said to be " the most superb tree we met with in the Indian forests * * ; it is conspicuous for its gigantic size and for the straightness and graceful form of its tall unbranched pale-grey trunk and small symmetrical crown: many individuals were upwards of 200 feet high, and fifteen in girth. Its leaves are broad, glossy, and beautiful * * the wood is hard, close-grained, and durable, and a fragrant oil exudes from the trunk which is extremely valuable as pitch and varnish, etc., besides being a good medicine * * *. This tree furnishes timber of great size and strength. It is fit for any purpose for which saul is employed, being of the same family. It is chiefly employed for canoe and boat building".

5. Major Beddome states that the wood of the *Dipterocarpus Indicus* is of little use, but I am not aware of its ever having been tested, and I have, therefore, asked Mr. Cherry to have a tree felled and seasoned, and then to give me his opinion of the value of the timber.

6. Judging from its present value and other circumstances, however, Mr. Cherry hesitates to recommend its propagation, as he thinks it will be very expensive, for, like the Poonspar, the tree grows in the out-of-the-way moist ravines of the ghâts, and no return on the outlay can be expected for about twenty-five years, and then the yield of the oil is only 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds, worth from 2 to 3 Rupees.

7. As I notice, however, that Balfour states that the *Dipterocarpus Turbinatus* grows in light sandy soil near the banks of streams as well as in dense forests, and as

the other trees of the species would probably grow in similar places, I have instructed Mr. Cherry to try to grow it in some suitable locality near one of our large rivers.

8. I have also directed his attention to what seems to me to be a mistake in extracting the oil. The plan followed in this district is to make an incision just below the lowest branch, deep enough to reach the pith: the trees thus operated on not being capable of again producing oil for twenty years, even if then. In Balfour, I find that oil is annually extracted from the tree, and that the incision is not so deep as that made here, that it is made a few feet from the ground, and that the secretion is occasionally stimulated by scorching the surface of the scar. Mr. Cherry has been asked to give this method of operating a trial under his personal supervision if practicable.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 1 of G. O., No. 1,325, dated 15th October 1874.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 331. ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1875, No. 835.

Forests, No. 21. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

To REVENUE.

The BOARD of REVENUE.

Dated May, 28*th*.

Read.

Entd.

G. O., 28th May 1875, *No.* 835.

M A T.

Nos. 330-331.

Trees producing wood-oil in South Canara District.—Recording Board's Proceedings reporting the native and botanical names of —, the uses made of them, and the manner in which the oil is extracted from them.

3/835

FOREST, No. 82.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th May 1875, No. 1,247.

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 23rd March 1875, No. 577 :—

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SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 1 of G. O., No. 1,325, dated 15th October 1874.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Acting Collector of South Canara.
" to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. A. Raitt.

1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH MAY 1875, No. 1,247.

Encl.

Received 24 May

MAY.

Forest, No. 82.

Trees producing wood-oil — in South Canara District.—Letter from Collector reporting with remarks the native and botanical names of — and the uses made of them, also the manner in which the oil is extracted from them, submitted for information of Government.