



Herbarium

24

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

July 14, 1917.

Dear Professor Henriques,

After my return for a short holiday at the end of June I found your glycerine material of the new Meliaceae from St. Thomé awaiting me. I have examined it since carefully but am still puzzled. I cannot identify it with anything I know nor have we traced it in the herbarium. I cannot help thinking that the plant ought to be placed in Meliaceae and yet I do not know where. If one could get fruit of it it might be different. The flowers have all the appearance of Meliaceae flowers, but the absence of episepalous stamens and the singular tube with its lateral suspension is quite unique. There seem to me to be two theories to explain it.

(1) That the tube represents the missing episepalous stamens and that its overlapping in front of the filaments of the inner (epipetalous) stamens and its descent into the receptacle is due to secondary growth. In this case the tube would be staminodial and there would be no disk.

(2) We might assume that the outer (episepalous) whorl of stamens is completely suppressed and the tube of a discoid nature, the disk lining the receptacle and breaking away from it at the insertion of the stamens growing upwards and downwards at the same time.

I should be glad to know what you think of that and of course to have fruits ^{en} whenever they are available.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

O. Stapf