

AN ADDITION TO THE GENUS
PHORADENDRON (LORANTHACEAE)

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Even at the beginning of my work on the genus *Dendrophthora* (Loranthaceae) it seemed clear that *D. poeppigii* Van Tieghem occupied an anomalous position in that genus. Sometime ago it occurred to me that, while within *Dendrophthora* I could not point out any close relatives, several species of *Phoradendron* showed great similarities. In general habit, vaginae cataphyllares, and even inflorescence structure *Phoradendron caesalpiniae* Ule, *P. surinamense* Pulle, and *P. linearifolium* Eichler (Trelease, *Phoradendron*, 1916, plates 225b, 226, and 181, respectively) are exceedingly similar to *Dendrophthora poeppigii*. The latter species is also aberrant because of the fact that it grows at low elevations, this in contrast to all other continental species of *Dendrophthora*.

It is no surprise, therefore, to find that the species under consideration is a *Phoradendron* and not a *Dendrophthora*. Krukoff 6011 (see below) has clearly bilocular anthers, and there is no reason to believe that other collections will differ in this respect. Thus once again the seemingly weak distinction between the two genera, namely the number of locules in the anther, appears to be vindicated. A recombination to *Phoradendron*, then, becomes necessary. As Trelease's monograph does not, of course, refer to this species, and Van Tieghem does not provide a sufficient description, a formal treatment follows.

***Phoradendron poeppigii* (Van Tieghem) Kuitj, n. comb.**

Basionym: *Dendrophthora poeppigii* Van Tieghem, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 43: 182. 1896.

Illustrations: Kuitj, Acta Bot. Neerl. 8: 510. Fig. 2a (center). 1959.
Present paper, Figs. 1 and 2.

An apparently squamate species of extraordinary appearance because of its exceedingly long and slender, terete internodes. The squamate condition perhaps more apparent than real, as leaf scars are sometimes visible below lateral branches; leaves possibly very small, deciduous? Each long internode, whether precurrent or lateral, has its base sheathed by a vagina cataphyllaris; up to 5 similar vaginae are present on inflorescences. Phyllotaxy decussate throughout, including that of the cataphylls; basal appendages of lateral branches

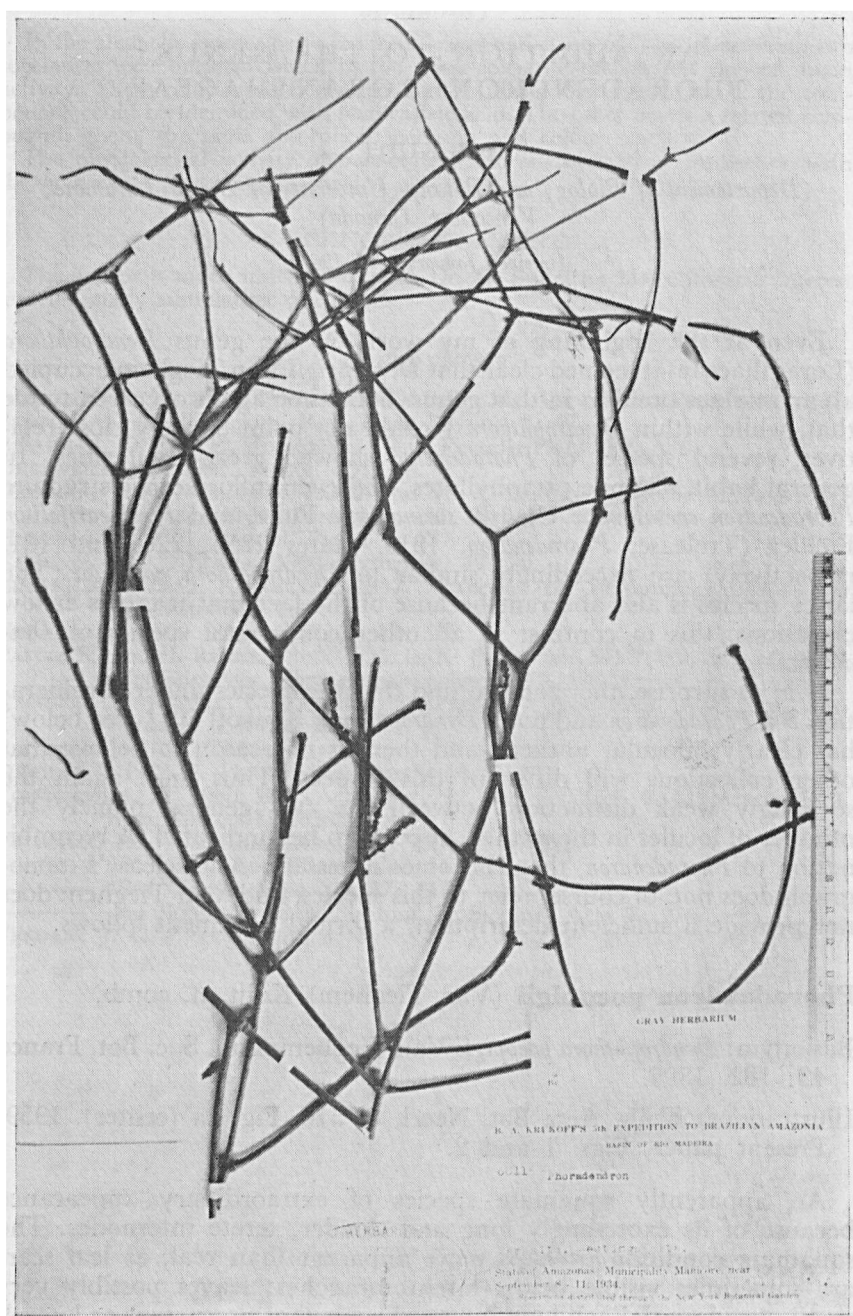


Fig. 1. *Phoradendron poeppigii* (v. Tiegh.) Kuijt, Krukoff 6011, GH.

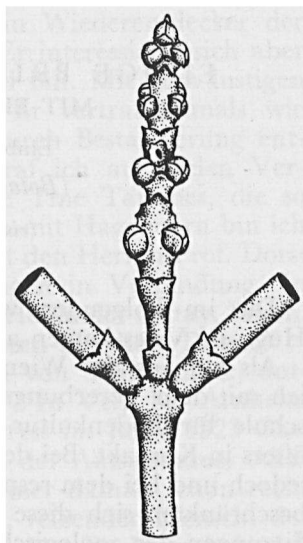


Fig. 2. A terminal inflorescence of *P. poeppigii* (Krukoff 6011, K), with supporting node and portions of lateral branches ($\times 2$).

in median plane, prophylls scarcely discernable. Spikes often lateral, but also terminal, then producing a forked habit. Spikes with up to 5 or 6 fertile internodes, each internode ca. 4 mm long in flower, about 3 flowers per fertile bract, only the apical flower staminate and falling away early; lateral flowers pistillate only. Berries round-ovate, reddish-brown when dry. Inflorescence type 1a or 1b? Monoecious. TYPE: Poeppig, with illegible data except for "Brasilia Borealis" (P) is in all likelihood the specimen which Van Tieghem saw, and should be regarded as the type.

Specimens seen:

Krukoff 6011, Brasil, State of Amazonas, Manicore, near Bella Vista (F, G, GH, K, MO, NY, S, U, US); Ule 5249, Brasil, Marary, Río Iuruá (G, K); Weir 13, Brasil, State of Amazonas, São José de Amatory, River Amazonas, on *Hevea brasiliensis* (F, GH, MO, NY, US); Weir s.n., Brasil, Puiheiro Island, on *Hevea brasiliensis* (F, GH, MO, NY, US).

The nearest relatives are probably the three other species of *Phoradendron* mentioned above. Another species which is certainly related is *P. platycaulon* Eichler (cf. Kuijt, Acta Bot. Neerl. **8**, Fig. 7a. 1959; Trelease, *Phoradendron*, 1916, plate 227), as is indicated by a very similar spike and an identical sex distribution along the spike. The fact that obviously related species must be culled from widely separate subdivisions in Trelease's treatment does little credit to his system.