

New and Interesting Records of African Plants

by

Various Authors

CELASTRACEAE

***Pseudosalacia* Codd**, gen. nov., *Salaciae* L. affinis, sed staminibus 5 prope margine disci insertis differt; a *Cassini* L. fructibus 2-5-seminalibus demum dehiscentibus differt.

Arbor. *Folia* alternantia, petiolata, exstipulata. *Inflorescentia* axillaris pauciflora cymosa, breviter pedunculata vel fasciculata, bracteis minutis deciduis. *Flores* hermaphroditi pedicellati. *Sepala* 5, imbricata. *Petala* (4—) 5 (—6), patentia. *Discus* applanatus. *Stamina* 5, prope margine disco inserta. *Ovarium* superum, in disco immersum, 3-loculare, loculis 2-ovulatis, ovulis collateralibus erectis, stylo 1, stigmatibus non distinguibili. *Fructus* capsularis coriaceus demum loculicidaliter dehiscens. *Semina* 2-5. *Endospermum* praesens.

Type species: *Pseudosalacia streyi* Codd.

***Pseudosalacia streyi* Codd**, sp. nov., species unica.

Arbor 3-5 m alta, ramulis cinereis glabris. *Folia* petiolata coriacea cinereo-
viridia glabra; lamina oblongo-elliptica vel ovato-elliptica, 7-14 cm longa, 4-8 cm
lata, penninervia apice rotundata vel emarginata, basi obtusa, margine integra,
petiolo 6-12 mm longo. *Inflorescentia* breviter pedunculata vel fasciculata 1-7-flora,
pedicellis 1-2 cm longis. *Sepala* 5, ad basim conjuncta persistentia. *Petala* (4—) 5 (—6),
viridi-flava vel flava patentia subrotundata, ca. 3 mm diam., subintegra. *Discus*
carnosus obscure 5-angulatus. *Stamina* 5, petalis alternantia, subsessilia, prope
margine disco inserta. *Ovarium* 3-loculare, in disco immersum, stylo brevissimo.
Fructus globosus, 2-3 cm diam., pericarpio crasso coriaceo brunneo minute ver-
ruculoso. *Semina* 2-5, brunnea glabra trigona, 8-12 mm longa.

Type: Natal, Port Shepstone District, Uvongo River, about 5 km from the sea,
22 Oct. 1969, *Strey* 9150 (PRE, holo.).

Tree 3-5 m tall; bark greyish, smooth; branchlets glabrous. *Leaves* petiolate,
coriaceous, grey-green, glabrous; blade oblong-elliptic to ovate-elliptic, 7-14 cm long,
4-8 cm broad, penninerved; apex rounded to emarginate, base obtuse; margin entire,
slightly thickened; petiole 6-12 mm long, channelled above. *Inflorescence* shortly
pedunculate or fasciculate, 1-7-flowered; pedicels 1-2 cm long; bracts minute, scale-
like. *Sepals* 5, united at the base, imbricate, triangular, 1-1.5 mm long, persistent and
reflexed at the fruiting stage. *Petals* (4—) 5 (—6), greenish yellow to yellow, spreading,
subrotund, ca. 3 mm in diameter, subentire. *Disc* fleshy, obscurely 5-angled. *Stamens*
5, alternating with the petals, subsessile, arising from small protuberances near the
margin of the disc. *Ovary* 3-locular, almost completely immersed in the disc; locule
2-ovulate; ovules collateral, erect; style 1, very short; stigma not distinguishable.
Fruit capsular, globose, 2-3 cm in diameter, eventually dehiscent; pericarp thick,
leathery, dark brown, minutely verruculose. *Seeds* 2-5, brown, glabrous, trigonous,
8-12 mm long; endosperm present.

For some years sterile specimens of this interesting small tree have been known
from the south coastal area of Natal and it is largely due to the persistence of Mr.
R. G. Strey, Curator of the Natal Herbarium, that the fruits (in 1965) and flowers
(in 1966) became known. More recently, excellent flowering and fruiting specimens
have been collected by Mr. Strey and by Mr. H. B. Nicholson of "Skyline", St.
Michaels-on-Sea, Port Shepstone District.

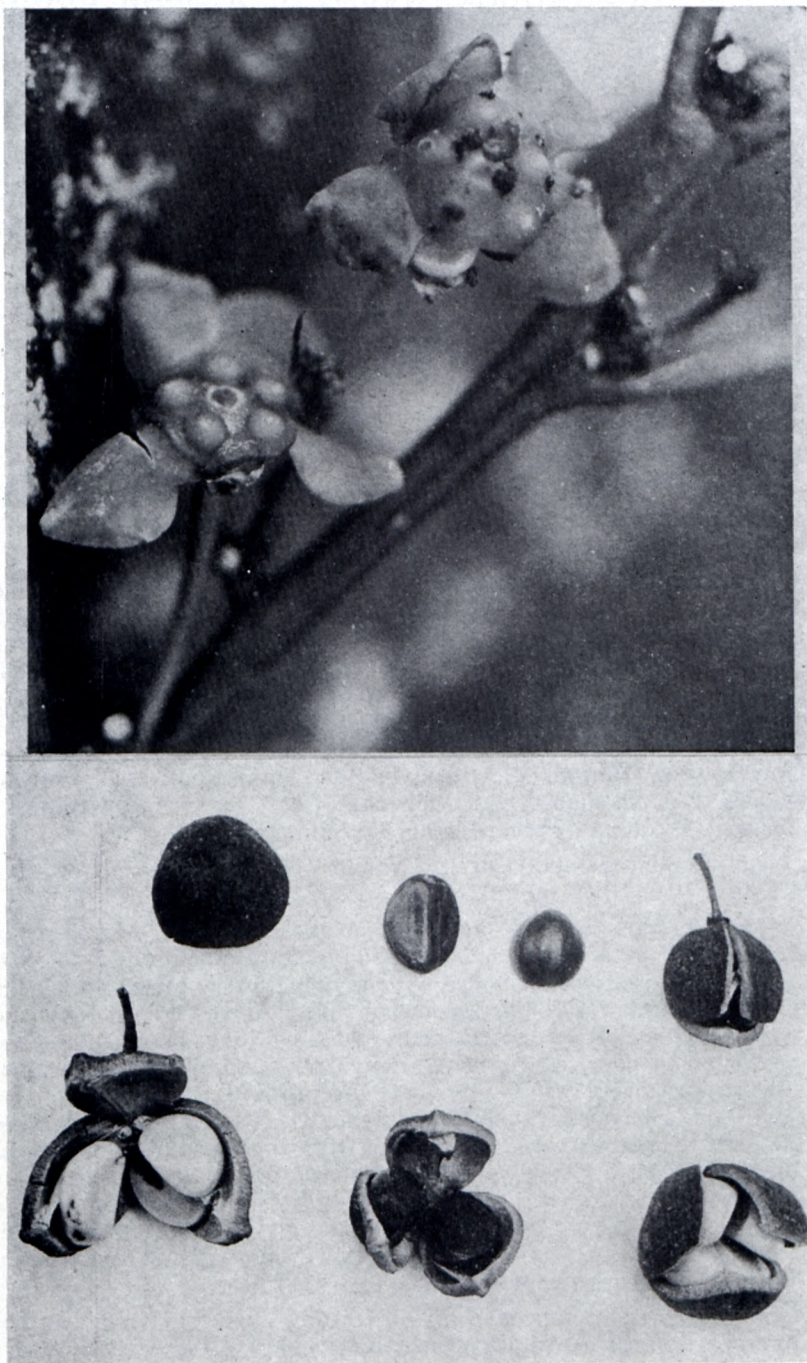


PLATE 1.—*Pseudosalacia streyi*: Above, flowering twig, $\times 4$; below, fruits, $\times \frac{3}{2}$.



PLATE 2.—*Pseudosalacia streyi*, fructing branch, x1 (Strey 9150).

The fruits are hard, leathery, globose, 2-5-seeded capsules, eventually dehiscent in three valves and are reminiscent of some *Salacia* species. The flowers differ from *Salacia* in having 5 stamens which arise from small protuberances near the margin of the disc. In *Salacia* there are usually 3 stamens (rarely 2 or 4) which are borne inside the disc, around the base of the ovary.

Flowering specimens resemble some species of *Cassine* sens. lat., and the alternate leaves suggest an affinity with *C. aethiopicum* Thunb. The fruits of *Cassine* are, however, drupaceous and almost invariably 1-seeded, while the five stamens are borne outside the disc.

Specimens were sent to our Liaison Officer at Kew who, after consultation with Dr. N. K. B. Robson, reported that it did not satisfactorily fit into a known genus.

The tree is relatively rare, occurring on river banks in the Port Shepstone District not far from the sea, usually among rocks.

NATAL.—3030 (Port Shepstone): Uvongo River, about 5 km from the sea (—CD), Strey 9150; 9240; Nicholson s.n.; Izotsha River (CD), Strey 6860; 7559; Ross 1887. 3130 (Port Edward): Umtamvuna River (—AA), Strey 5835; 7250.

L. E. CODD