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A New Species of *Byttneria* from Mangareva¹

By **E. D. MERRILL**

ADMINISTRATOR OF BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

CONSULTING BOTANIST, BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM

The material on which the following description is based was submitted to me for identification by E. H. Bryan, Jr., Curator of Collections, Bernice P. Bishop Museum. The two collections, one in flower, the other in fruit, apparently represent a hitherto undescribed species.

***Byttneria oligacantha* Merrill, sp. nov. (fig. 1).**

Herba suffruticosa, erecta vel suberecta, plus minusve ramosa, usque ad 2 m. alta e basi incrassata lignosa, caulibus 5-7 mm. diametro, deorsum teretibus, sursum plus minusve subangulatis, subsulcatis, vel striatis, aculeis paucis remotis e basi incrassata circiter 2 mm. longis armatis, partibus superioribus inermis vel subinermis, ramulis ultimis circiter 1 mm. diametro, glabris vel uno latere plus minusve pubescentibus; foliis chartaceis vel submembranaceis, in caulibus primariis ovatis, 8-12 cm. longis, 6-9 cm. latis, basi rotundatis vel obscurissime late cordatis, apice acuminatis, 5-nerviis, in ramis ultimis minoribus, 4-9 cm. longis, 2-5 cm. latis, majoribus irregulariter serrato-dentatis vel serrato-crenatis, minoribus obscurissime dentatis subintegris vel integris, subtus conspersissime pubescentibus; nervis primariis utrinque 4-6, distinctis, curvato-adscendentibus, anastomosantibus; petiolis in foliis majoribus usque ad 5 cm. longis, consperse minuteque aculeatis, in foliis minoribus inermibus, plus minusve pubescentibus, 4-8 mm. longis; inflorescentiis paucifloris, plerumque axillaribus, in ramulis ultimis, petiolum subaequantibus vel eo paullo longioribus, plerumque vix 1 cm. longis, rariter usque ad 2 cm. longis; floribus 6-7 mm. diametro, calycibus membranaceis, glabris, lobis triangulari-ovatis, acuminatis, circiter 2.5 mm. longis; petalis usque ad 4.5 mm. longis, supra basin incrassato-subcucullatis, cuculla obscure 2-lobata, circiter 1 mm. diametro, supra in ligulam elongatam simplicem producta, ligula plus minusve incrassata linearia vel claviformia, circiter 3 mm. longa; staminoides circiter 1 mm. diametro, apice subtruncatis

¹ Mangarevan Expedition Publication 29.

apiculatisque; staminibus 5; ovario subgloboso, vix 0.5 mm. diametro, obscure muricato; capsulis 5-ocularibus, globosis, immaturis cum spinis usque ad 1.5 cm. diametro, spinis deorsum incrassatis patulis, rectis vel leviter curvatis, glabris, 3-8 mm. longis.

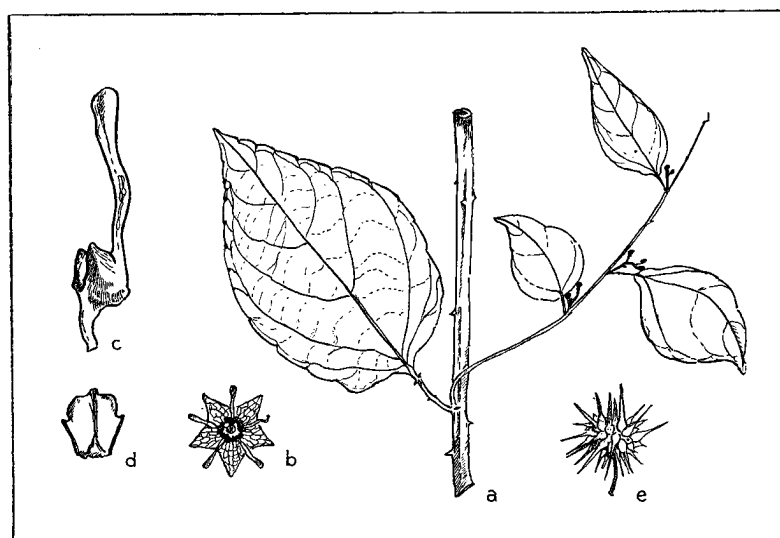


FIGURE 1.—*Byttneria oligacantha* Merrill: *a*, leafy branch (somewhat enlarged); *b*, flower ($\times 2$); *c*, petal, lateral view ($\times 5$); *d*, staminode ($\times 9$); *e*, immature fruit (natural size).

Mangareva, northeast side of Mount Duff, in upper part of small wooded area, alt. about 120 m., suffrutescent herb about 2 m. high with several erect stems from a woody base, flowering, June 23, 1934, *H. St. John 14450* (type); Gatavake Valley, base of Mount Duff, in moist forest, alt. about 100 m., sprawling herb with green globose fruits, June 26, 1934, *F. R. Fosberg 11355*. Native name: *tutu taratara*.

This is the second species of the genus to be recorded from Polynesia, and from a phytogeographical standpoint one might expect its closest alliance to be with *Byttneria tahitensis* Naud. (*Enum. Pl. Tahit.*, 68, 1873, type from Tahiti) which is beautifully illustrated by Drake del Castillo (*Ill. Ins. Maris Pac.*, 33, t. 11, 12, 1886), and of which there is an authentic specimen in the Gray Herbarium. However, it differs not only in all details of floral structure, but also in habit, vegetative characters, inflorescences, fruits, and in being more

or less aculeate, not smooth. In facies, and doubtless in its botanical alliances, it seems to be much closer to certain tropical American species, notably *Byttneria aculeata* Jacq., *B. carthaginensis* Jacq., *B. acuminata* Bred., and *B. urticifolia* K. Schum., which are characterized by being more or less herbaceous, erect or scandent, and aculeate.

The holotype is deposited in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum; an isotype is preserved in the herbarium of Bishop Museum. The original spelling of the generic name is accepted as correct (Sprague, Kew Bull., 42, 1929). Variants are *Bytneria*, *Büttneria*, *Buttneria*, *Bütneria*, *Buettnera*, and *Buettneria*, the latter being the most generally accepted form.