

NOTE

Strongylodon lucidus (Forst. f.) Seem. on Guam

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On 26 October, and again on 17 November 1990, at the edge of a limestone forest between the Salisbury and Mataguac areas north of Yigo, Guam, vines of *Strongylodon lucidus* were photographed and leaves and flowers collected and pressed.

Stone (1970) noted that *S. lucidus* had been collected from the "Upi Road" (now Route 15, the "back road to Andersen") by MacGregor (specimen 553). P. Moore collected a specimen (623) from near the War Memorial at Mataguac Hill, Yigo, and R. Krizman (pers. comm.) has collected and distributed specimens from Yigo (none of these are yet curated in the Guam herbarium).

Stone (1970) further noted that the "plant seems to be very rare on Guam" and that he had searched for it without success. This vine does not occur in many places, and where I have seen it, its leaves were mixed with those of the trees it had climbed upon, so that unless flowers are present the vine is fairly cryptic. It also seems to be an edge species, and to bloom only once per year.

One other problem exists. Stone (1970) describes the flowers as "scarlet-red, slender, curved and beaked, grouped in triads on pedicels 2–3 cm long." He also notes that "in bloom it is unmistakable, with the hanging racemes of scarlet flowers, each curved like the bill of some unusual bird, making the forest canopy rich with color."

The flowers undergo color changes as they mature; at first cream, then yellow, orange and finally a deep orange—but on Guam they are never red or scarlet while in the inflorescence (Plate I). When flowers fall from the raceme (and most do without being pollinated, apparently; seed pods are rare) they become a deep pink-scarlet. When flowers are pressed, some remain pink-scarlet, but eventually dry a dull purplish, even a purple-brown color.

It is likely that descriptions in print have been derived from herbarium specimens and there is no way to know of the color changes that occur in *Strongylodon lucidus* without seeing a live, flowering plant.

References

Stone, B. C. 1970. The flora of Guam. *Micronesica* 6: 1–659.



Raulerson—Plate I. *Strongylodon lucidus* flowers on Guam, showing characteristic orange color.