

An evolutionary and ecological perspective of Amazonian *Hymenaea* species of **Hymenaeae** (Leguminosae: Caesalpinioideae)

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ABSTRACT

The resin-producing genus *Hymenaea* has an amphi-Atlantic distribution with 13 species being Neotropical and one occurring along the eastern coast of Africa. Present evidence suggests an African origin for the genus with migration across the Atlantic occurring during the Early Tertiary when the continents were closer and rainforest vegetation was considerably more widely distributed than today. The center of its Neotropical distribution is the Amazonian hylaea, although within its extensive range from 23° N to 26° S it is found in all major ecosystem types. The taxonomy, breeding structure, ecology and resin chemistry of the 9 *Hymenaea* species and 6 varieties occurring in the Amazonian and historically-related Brazilian Atlantic coastal humid evergreen forests are discussed as well as the possible evolution of these species in response to postulated drying trends begun in Mid Tertiary times and during wet-dry oscillations in the Pleistocene.

INTRODUCTION

Evolutionary interest in the leguminous genus *Hymenaea* (Caesalpinioideae, Detarieae⁽¹⁾) was initiated by the discovery that fossil resin (amber) from Mexico, Colombia and Brazil was derived from this source (Langenheim, 1966, 1967). Subsequently a world-wide investigation of the botanic source of amber in relation to present-day resin producers led to the conclusion that copious production of resin was predominantly a tropical phenomenon (Langenheim, 1969). Thus focussing study on a tropical leguminous genus, such as *Hymenaea*, provides an opportunity not only to analyze the

change in the chemistry of a resin through time, but also to investigate a member of a family which constitutes one of the most important elements of tropical rainforest ecosystems. Ultimately, it is hoped that an analysis can be made regarding the role that tropical environmental conditions play in the synthesis of the resin and the possible ecological significance of resins within tropical ecosystems. In both ecological and evolutionary contexts *Hymenaea* is particularly interesting because species of the genus appear to have radiated from a rainforest center into a wide variety of ecosystems of drier tropical habitats.

The genus has 14 presently-recognized species and 12 varieties (Lee, 1973). Its range is amphi-Atlantic, although 13 species are Neotropical with their distribution centered in the Amazon Basin but extending from 23° N in central Mexico, throughout the West Indies and to 26° S in South America, occurring in all countries except Chile and Uruguay. The one African species is distributed along the coast of eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique) and the offshore islands of Zanzibar, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles, and was only recently returned to *Hymenaea* from the genus *Trachylobium* (Langenheim & Lee, 1973).

On the basis of inflorescence, flower and fruit characters, two taxonomic sections of the genus may be recognized (Langenheim and Lee, 1973; Lee, 1973; Fig. 1). Sect. *Trachylobium* is characterized by a long-paniculate inflorescence with small flowers and oval to oboval fruit.

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(1) — In previous work (Martin, Langenheim and Zavarin, 1972; Langenheim, 1973) we have used the tribal designation of Cynometreae Benth. (1840) emend. Léonard (1957). Recently Heywood (1971) has presented de Candolle's (1825) name Detarieae which has priority over Bentham's name Cynometreae.

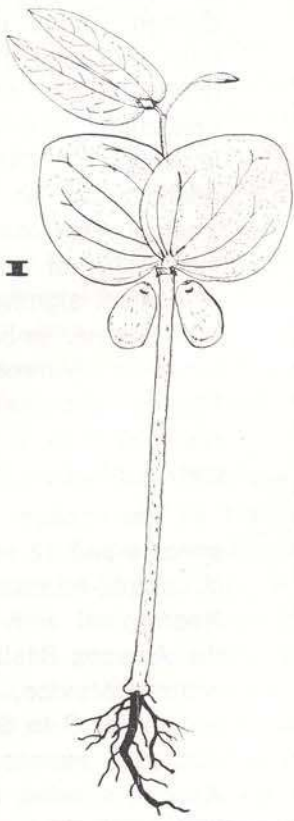
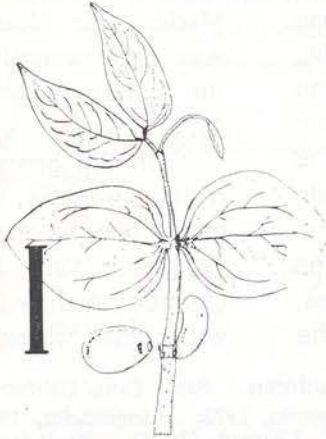
SPECIES OF HYMENAEA		SEEDLING TYPE	ECOSYSTEM TYPE										
			EVERGREEN FOREST					SEMI-DECIDUOUS FOREST	SAVANNAH	THORN FOREST	COASTAL SCRUB		
			AMAZONIAN			COASTAL	GALLERY						
			TERRA FIRMA	VARZEA	IGAPO								
SECT. TRACHYLOBIUM	<i>H. verrucosum</i>												
	<i>H. oblongifolia</i> VAR. <i>oblongifolia</i>												
	VAR. <i>palustris</i>												
	VAR. <i>latifolia</i>												
	VAR. <i>davisii</i>												
<i>H. parvifolia</i>													
SECT. HYMENAEA	<i>H. torrei</i>												
	<i>H. intermedia</i>												
	<i>H. adenotricha</i>												
	<i>H. reticulata</i>												
	<i>H. rubriflora</i>												
	<i>H. aurea</i>												
	<i>H. eriogyne</i>												
SECT. HYMENAEA	<i>H. courbaril</i> VAR. <i>courbaril</i> VAR. <i>subsessilis</i>												
	<i>H. altissima</i>												
	<i>H. stilbocarpa</i>												
	<i>H. martiana</i>												
	<i>H. stigonocarpa</i>												
	<i>H. velutina</i>												

Fig. 1 — Distribution of *Hymenaea* in different ecosystem types with taxonomic sections and ecological groups based on seedling types indicated.

In sect. *Hymenaea* the inflorescence is densely corymbose with medium to large flowers and generally large rhomboidal to oblong fruits.

On the basis of seedling characters, *Hymenaea* may be divided into two other groups; these classes segregate the species ecologically into those occurring in the evergreen forest (hylaean) habitats and those in the drier forest, savannah and semi-desert thorn shrub habitats (Fig. 1). In species primarily found in the evergreen forest habitats, there is a short primary internode between the cotyledon attachment and the two primary leaves; in contrast, the extra-evergreen forest habitat species have a relatively long internode.

This paper will cover the 9 species of *Hymenaea* which occur in evergreen rainforests, with emphasis placed upon those presently occurring within the Amazonian hylaean. Thus most of the species to be discussed fall into the ecological group which includes sect. *Trachylobium* and part of sect. *Hymenaea* (Fig. 1). Five species (*H. oblongifolia* varieties *oblongifolia* Huber and *palustris* Lee and Lang., *H. parvifolia* Ducke, *H. reticulata* Ducke, *H. adenotricha* Ducke and *H. intermedia* Ducke) are restricted to the Amazon Basin. *Hymenaea oblongifolia* var. *davisii* Lee and Lang. occurs in central Guyana. *Hymenaea courbaril* L. has essentially the distribution of the entire genus, but variety *subsessilis* Ducke is restricted to the central Amazon Basin. Two species (*H. rubriflora* Ducke and *H. aurea* Lee and Lang.) and *H. oblongifolia* var. *latifolia* Lee and Lang. are distributed in the Brazilian Atlantic coastal rainforests from Pernambuco to Bahia. *Hymenaea eriogyne* Benth. occurs in forest islands in the caatinga of northeastern Brazil. These Atlantic coastal and northeastern Brazilian species are probably relicts from Early Tertiary times when the Amazonian-type forest had a more southerly distribution.

Hymenaea has many characters in common with the abundant resin-producing genus *Guibourtia* which occurs most frequently in West Africa but which has outposts in eastern Africa.⁶ It also has been hypothesized that the extremely diverse, Pantropical genus *Cynometra* may be the parental stock for genera such as *Hymenaea* and *Guibourtia* (Langenheim, 1973).

The closeness of relationship of *Hymenaea* to these African genera adds evolutionary and phytogeographic interest.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND FLORISTIC PATTERNS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN HYLAEA

General characterization of the environmental and floristic variation within the hylaean is important to our interpretation of the ecological relations of *Hymenaea* species and their evolution. "Hylaean" is a term presented by Humboldt (1807, 1814-1825, 1852) to refer to the South American equatorial rainforest but now is more commonly used by plant geographers to refer to all equatorial evergreen forests (Aubreville, 1961; Richards, 1966). The hylaean of South America covers more than 6 million square kilometers, i.e., most of the Amazon Basin, the basins of the upper Orinoco, and drainages in Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana as well as the basins of the lower Tocantins, including the Rio Pará and small rivers of Atlantic drainage eastward to the Rio Pindaré in Maranhão (Fig. 2). Evergreen forest extends along the eastern coast of Brazil from Pernambuco to Parana; however, the area in southern Bahia and northern Espírito Santo is considered truly hylaean-type vegetation and has been called "Hylaean Bahiana" (Andrade-Lima, 1953).

Thus natural limits of the hylaean are set in the east by the Atlantic Ocean and in the west by the Andes, except for a Pacific coastal extension in Ecuador and Colombia (Fig. 2). Its northern limits in Colombia and Venezuela and its southern boundary in Bolivia and central Brazil appear to be controlled by climatically drier areas and hence a gradual transition occurs to drier forest and savannah-type ecosystems (Soares, 1953). In the Amazon Basin proper the forest is nearly continuous in the west but areas of open savannah with a non-hylaean flora are scattered in the central and eastern regions. Although our discussion will be centered upon species of *Hymenaea* within the Amazon Basin, they are distributed throughout the hylaean. Additionally, an understanding of the evolution of the genus is very closely tied to the history of both the South American and African equatorial rainforests through Tertiary and Pleistocene times.

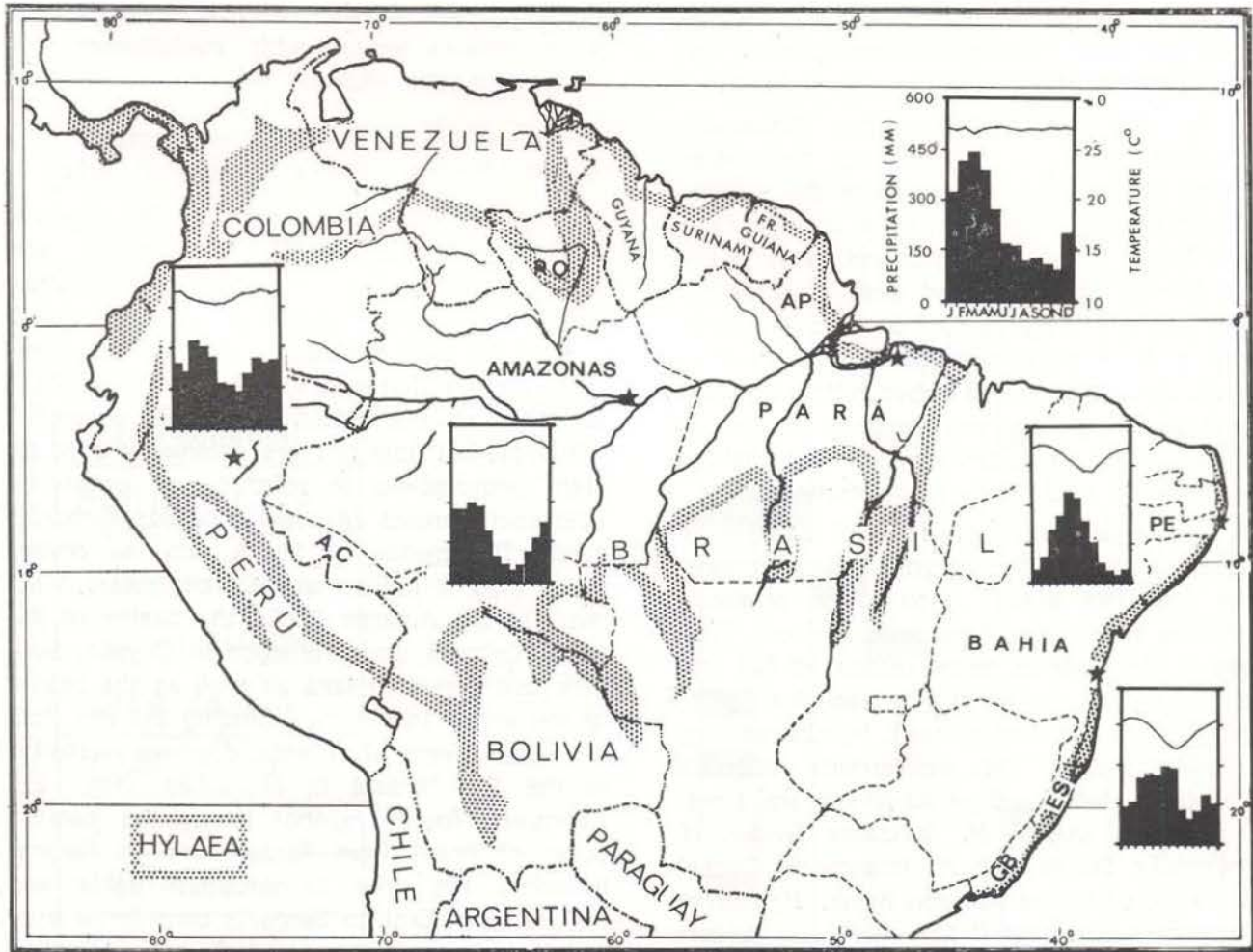


Fig. 2 — Vegetation map of the South American hylaea with insets showing monthly average rainfall and temperature conditions for typical stations in different floristic regions. Climatic data obtained from Ministerio da Agricultura do Brasil, Normais Climatológicas (1968) and U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Monthly Climatic Data for the World (Jan. 1956-Dec. 1969). * Indicates the location of the weather stations: Iquitos in Peru; Manaus, Amazonas; Belém, Pará; Recife, Pernambuco; Ilhéus, Bahia in Brazil.

Because of lack prominent physiographic differences and similarity in physiognomy of the hylaea vegetation, the Amazon and adjacent basins have often been characterized by biologists as a "vast uniform habitat" (Haffer, 1969; Vanzolini and Williams, 1970; Vuilleumier, 1971), an impression that has considerably influenced evolutionary interpretations. "Uniformity of habitat" is, of course, relative to whatever group of organisms is being discussed. From the viewpoint of a botanist, the differences in both annual and seasonal precipitation patterns and soil types, which are reflected in significant floristic and vegetational variability, dispel the idea of uniformity. In fact, emphasis is shifted toward understanding the degree and nature of the variability.

Three major precipitation regimes may be recognized in Amazonia based on the total annual amount and seasonality (Sombroek, 1966; Sioli, 1968). Highest annual rainfalls (over 3000 mm annually) occur in the extreme east (Amazonian Estuary) and west (drainages of the Rio Solimões, Japura and middle and upper Rio Negro). The lower Amazon (between the Rio Trombetas and Xingu) receives only 1500-2000 mm annually, whereas the central Amazon (from the Rio Trombetas westerly to the eastern Solimões) and an eastern strip in Pará and Amapá are intermediate with 2000-2500 mm. The eastern and central areas are characterized by relatively heavy "winter" rains (December-June) and a relative dry period in the "summer" (July-November). In the western

part of the basin the precipitation is more well distributed throughout the year, although two relatively short dry seasons may occur in certain areas from February to March and June to August.

In contrast to precipitation regimes, temperatures and relative humidity are relatively constant in Amazonia. The mean annual temperature varies from 23.5 to 26.9°C. The relative humidity is high with the annual mean varying from 73-94%. In the central part of Amazonia the mean values everywhere above 80%. The constancy of this high humidity, even during dry seasons, means lesser transpiration rates than would otherwise be expected and may be of considerable importance to the development of the vegetation.

In addition to the importance of the patterns of precipitation, temperature and humidity in determining moisture availability to plants, the degree of flooding is of major consequence. In the igapó (swamp forest) the soil never dries out, in the várzea the forest is periodically inundated, whereas on the dry upland terra firme the forests are never flooded. An igapó habitat can also occur on marshy banks of forest streams in an area otherwise characterized as várzea or terra firme. The lowlands of the coastal belt and the Amazonian estuary are influenced by tides; the lowest land (daily flooded) is related to igapó, whereas higher land (flooded only by spring tides) resembles the várzea of other areas. Terra firme and várzea are not so easily separated in the western part of Amazonia as in the eastern. The western várzea includes many islands of higher, rarely flooded "restingas" where typical várzea forest is mixed with various species usually growing on terra firme. In addition, terra firme of western Amazonia is not a continuous upland interrupted only by igapó of some streams, as is usual in the more eastern part of the hylaea. More often it consists of an undulating terrain where strips of upland alternate with depressions which are often marshy and flooded by rain water.

Over 98% of the hylaea occurs on terra firme, which consists in central Amazonia of deposits laid down in an enormous Pliocene-Pleistocene inland lake that extended from the

foot of the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean (Sombroek, 1966). Although the soils were derived from relatively uniform lithologic sources (granites and gneisses) from the Guyana Shield in north and the central Brazilian Upland in the south, soils vary considerably and are a dominant influence in controlling local floras (Ducke and Black, 1953; Sombroek, 1966). The soil types range from predominantly sandy to some compact clay loams, which tend to be both acid and infertile, to small areas of fertile man-created "terra preta" soils.

The soils of the várzea are quite different from those of the central and lower Amazonian terra firme. At the end of the Pleistocene, the rise in ocean level drowned the river valleys of lower Amazonia and the rivers began to fill with sediments brought from the headwater region, forming new floodplains related to the altered river level (Sioli, 1968, 1973). The soils are fertile (in contrast to those of the terra firme) both because of their being derived from diverse bedrock types in the Andes and from the annual renewal of sediments on them. Despite more fertile soils, the várzea forest is not as rich in species as is the terra firme forest. Along the Lower Amazon the várzea forest is restricted to the river banks (with the shallow várzea lakes being occupied by grassland or "várzea savannah"). Although a great many várzea forest species occur throughout the Amazon Basin, further west one goes the richer in the species the várzeas become. Here the vast várzea grassland and savannahs are missing and the forest extends into the water of the várzea lakes and igapó (Sioli, 1968, 1973). Also, many species grow in the várzea here that elsewhere grow only on the upland terra firme (Ducke and Black, 1953).

The hylaea flora is best known along the navigable rivers with most upland areas between the rivers being poorly collected. Therefore, it is difficult to establish meaningful phytogeographic regions of the hylaea based upon our present knowledge of the flora. However, the preliminary zonal characterization by Ducke and Black (1953) is useful for ecological and evolutionary considerations. They point out that longitude plays a more important role than latitude in composition of

the flora. There thus are three main longitudinally determined zones with latitudinal subdivisions (Fig. 3). Although there is some general correlation of the floristic zones with the three major climatic areas, the boundaries are not strongly coincident, indicating that the present floristic patterning is due to complex historical factors and edaphic as well as climatic conditions.

The Eastern Zone, subdivided into Northeast and Southeast sections, extend westward from the estuary to the Rio Xingu and eastern side of the Trombetas basin. The coastal area from Maranhão northward to French Guiana and Surinam is characterized by open campos (grasslands and savannahs) — the most extensive areas lying in the eastern half of the island of Marajó and in the Territory of Amapá. The Northeast comprises the hill country of the middle and upper courses of

the rivers between the Amazon and the Essequibo, and the lower Amazonian tributaries. It is the most vegetationally heterogeneous part of the hylaea, often with the rainforest here being substituted by a summer-dry forest of lower trees or shrubland resembling the cerrado of central Brazil. In the areas northeast of Obidos and from Monte Alegre to Almeirim there are relatively large areas of grassland with scattered trees or densely covered with shrubs. Some of this grass and savannah area may result from agricultural colonies and the continuing grazing of cattle (Sioli, 1973). Ducke and Black (1953), however, have pointed out that islands of seasonally dry forest in the "hill campos" of Monte Alegre contain endemic species not characteristic of the hylaea flora. The Southeastern hylaea includes the basin of the Tocantins, with little know about the flora of the upper courses of

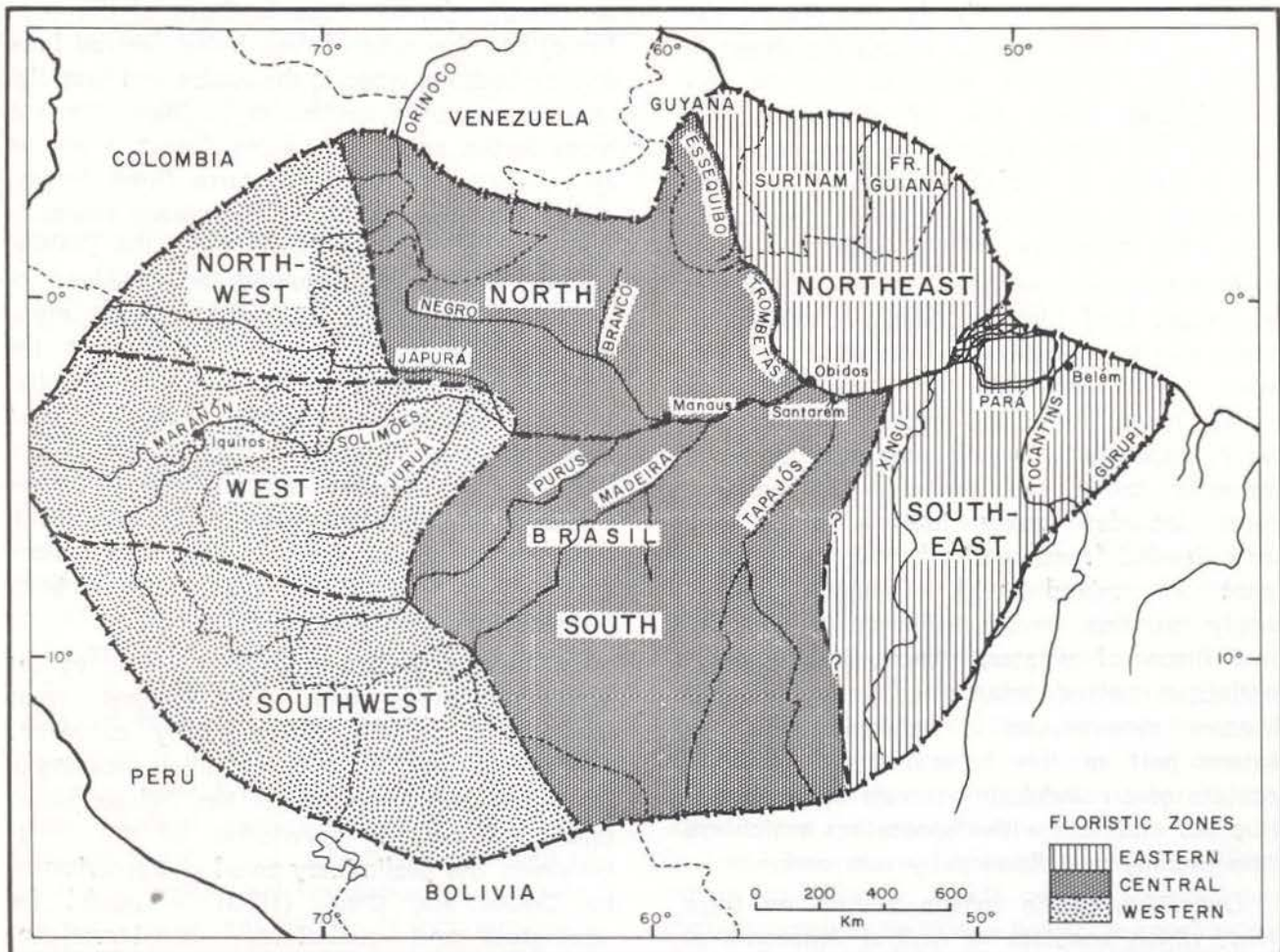


Fig. 3 — Floristic zones of the Amazonian hylaea as described by Ducke and Black (1959). Map drawn as constructed by Sombroek (1968).

the smaller tributaries of Pará estuary, both sides of the Tocantins and that of the headwaters of the Gurupí. Little also is known of possible affinities of this Tocantins flora with that of the Xingu. Ducke and Black, however, suggest that due to more uniform environmental conditions, the flora here may not be as rich in species as that of the Northeastern section. This Eastern Zone often contains the western limits of many species common throughout the coastal region.

The Central Zone is divided into Northern and Southern sections. The Northern hylaea comprises the basin of the Rio Negro (except the upper Rio Branco) the basin of the upper Orinoco, the eastern part of the Rio Japurá and the western part of the Trombetas basin. The flora of southwestern Guyana is related to it. The hylaea reaches its maximum diversity in number of genera and species, as well as endemics, in this area. It also appears to be a center of evolution for the Caesalpinioideae, with this group being the dominant forest element. Ducke and Black (1953) suggest that the floristic diversity in this section is probably related to the variety of ecological conditions, greater than any other part of the hylaea. Here one encounters the highest mountains, such as Serra Curicuriari. The rocky tops of many of these serras are covered with shrubby vegetation which unfortunately has not been well collected. Also present in the flora of the Rio Negro basin are extensive areas of "caatinga", shrubs and low trees which occur on an upland silica soil with acid humus in regions with heavy rain throughout the year. The variety of species in these caatingas exceeds that of any other formation in any part of the hylaea. Almost all larger trees of the caatinga also grow in the virgin rainforest of the vicinity. However, the Amazonian caatinga has no close affinities with any other forest type and particularly little with the grasslands and open savannahs. "Campinas", open spots in the virgin forest on marshy soil composed of white sand and black humus, are also particularly well represented in this section. Floras of clearings are sometimes called campinas, and large campinas are sometimes called campos. However, the flora of the campina (as defined by Ducke and Black,

1953) is distinguished by its great variety of woody species representing a genuine, highly specialized part of the hylaea flora.

The Southern section of the Central Zone hylaea includes the whole basin of the Tapajós and the eastern tributaries of the Madeira. This section apparently approaches the Northern hylaea in richness of species. A larger number of species coming from western Amazonia seem to reach their eastern limit here, however, than in the Northern section.

The Western Zone of the hylaea is an immense plain occupying both sides of the upper Amazon (called Solimões in Brazil, Marañón in Peru). The eastern limit of the flora is uncertain, but the flora on both sides of the lower Solimões is more allied to that of the middle than that of the upper Amazon. The Western hylaea also has caatinga as does an area of the upper Rio Negro. The Northwestern section, as well as the partly mountainous transition zone to the flora of the middle Orinoco basin, belongs entirely to Colombia. The Southwestern section in Brazil is represented by Acre, which includes numerous southern extra-Amazonian elements.

Ducke and Black (1953) point out that the distribution of many species follows one of several patterns: 1) distributed generally throughout Amazonia (mainly várzea species), 2) restricted to the longitudinally defined zones or sections within them, 3) occurring in the Eastern and Western zones but not in the Central zone. Again these facts tend to emphasize the heterogeneity of the environmental and resulting floristic and vegetational conditions of the hylaea, and again should dispel any concept of a "vast uniform habitat", at least with regard to the distribution of higher plants.

The evergreen forest of the Atlantic coastal plain has much in common climatically and floristically with that of the Amazonian region. It has been assumed that the Atlantic coastal forest, extending today from Pernambuco to the region around Rio de Janeiro, was connected with that of the Amazon Basin during at least the early Tertiary. Palentological (Menéndez, 1969; Simpson, 1969), floristic (Ducke, 1949; Andrade-Lima, 1953; Rizzini, 1963, 1967) and faunistic (Vanzolini and Williams, 1970) evidence

supports this view. Floristically, Rizzini (1967) has pointed out that 277 genera occur in both Amazonian and Atlantic forests. Usually a genus which is represented by one or few species in the Atlantic forest has several to many in the Amazonian hylaea. Of particular interest is the region in southern Bahia and northern Espírito Santo, which has such an unusually high proportion of Amazonian hylaea species that it is called "Hylaea Bahiana" (Andrade-Lima, 1953). Andrade-Lima also felt that the high (2000 mm or more), well-distributed rainfall in this area was probably an important factor in maintaining a similarity in both flora and physiognomy of this hylaea with much of the Amazonian hylaea.

MORPHOLOGIC DISTINCTIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE HYLAEA SPECIES OF HYMENAEA

We will point out the prominent morphologic features that distinguish species of *Hymenaea* and discuss their habitats and distribution as a basis for evolutionary and ecological interpretation. A synoptic key is provided (appendix) to aid in identification of these species.

The earliest work on the Amazonian species of *Hymenaea* was done by Jacques Huber (1909), the first director of the Museu Goeldi in Belém, Pará. This beginning was followed by more extensive collection and description by Adolphe Ducke (1935, 1939, 1949), the indefatigable investigator of Brazilian legumes who collected both in the Amazon and Atlantic coastal forests. Additional hylaea species have been described from Guyana, the caatinga of northeastern Brazil, and the Brazilian coastal evergreen forest.

***Hymenaea oblongifolia* Huber**
(Bol. Mus. Paraense Hist. Nat. 5: 386, 1909)

Hymenaea oblongifolia (sect. *Trachylobium*) is a polytypic species which probably constitutes the primitive stock for the evolution of *Hymenaea* in the New World (Langenheim and Lee, 1973). The four recognized varieties (Lee and Langenheim, 1973) are separated morphologically by foliar and floral characters and are isolated ecologically by different

habitats. *Hymenaea microcarpa* (Huber, 1910) for which no description has been published, is considered synonymous with *H. oblongifolia* (Ducke, 1939).

Hymenaea oblongifolia var. *oblongifolia* is distinguished by its narrowly oblong, glabrous leaflets and clawed to subclawed petals. This variety has one of the widest ranges of the *Hymenaea* species restricted to the Amazon and adjacent basins. Its distribution pattern (Fig. 4) conforms to high annual rainfall areas (more than 2500 mm) in the eastern and western parts of the hylaea; it is conspicuously absent in the central drier areas (annual rainfall less than 2500 mm). It is characteristic of the várzea alta (its common name being "jutahy de várzea"), but in the Western Zone (Fig. 3) also occurs along streams on terra firme clay soils. As was pointed out previously, however, it is more difficult to distinguish the terra firme and várzea habitats in the western Amazon than in the eastern. Variety *oblongifolia* has been most commonly collected in the eastern Amazon where it is relatively frequent on the várzea of the Rio Guamá, the Ilha do Marajó, and in all parts of the Furos de Breves in Pará. It also has been collected in the Trombetas basin but as yet has not been reported from the southeastern Amazon. It has been collected over a wide area in the western zone from the Rio Japurá (Caquetá in Colombia), along the Rio Solimões, and in the south on the Rio Madeira and Rio Juruá. Schultes (1953) has pointed out that it is associated with Cretaceous outliers of "the Venezuela-Guyana land mass".

Hymenaea oblongifolia var. *palustris* is distinguished by the dense, golden-brown tomentose hairs underneath the leaflets, and by small flowers with almost sessile petals. Its wood is much harder than that of variety *oblongifolia*. Variety *palustris* has essentially the same distribution pattern as variety *oblongifolia* (Fig. 4), occurring in the same high rainfall regions of the extreme eastern and western parts of the Amazon Basin, although it is less frequent or at least has been less collected. Ecologically, variety *palustris*, as its name implies, occurs principally in the swamp forest or igapó (its common name being "jutahy de igapó"), found along the inundated margins of rivers (Fig. 5). It

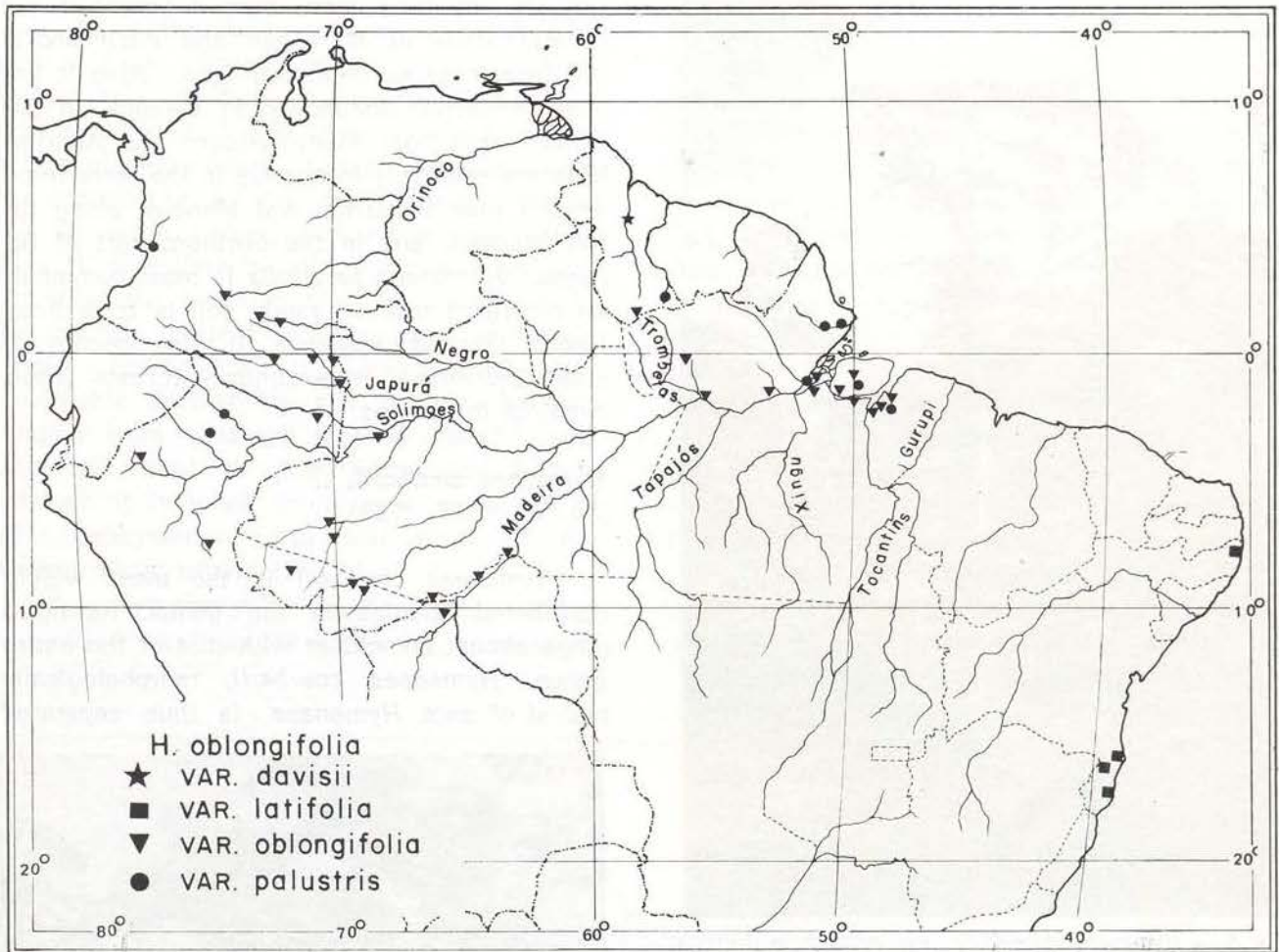


Fig. 4 — Distribution of *H. oblongifolia* and its varieties *davisii*, *latifolia* and *palustris*.

occurs particularly in igapós of the western part of Ilha de Marajó, near Belém, Pará, and along rivers in Amapá. In the western zone it has been collected twice along rivers near Iquitos, Peru. Also it has been reported once from the Rio Yurumangui, along the Colombian coast. This is the only known location for *Hymenaea* occurring in the hylaea west of the Andes.

Hymenaea oblongifolia var. *davisii* is distinguished by its narrowly falcate and long-acuminate leaflets, and its lanceolate and subsessile petals. This variety is known from only two collections, each from along a river in the drainage of the Essequibo River, Guyana (Fig. 4). It is commonly called "courabarie", "locust", or "simiri", names which may also be applied to *H. courbaril*.

Hymenaea oblongifolia var. *latifolia* is distinguished by its broadly-oblong leaflets (having a length: width ratio of about 2 as compared with 3 in the other varieties), and by its distinctly clawed petals. Unlike the three varieties just described, variety *latifolia* is restricted to the Atlantic coastal evergreen forests (Fig. 4). Although it is isolated from the Amazonian hylaea, the affinity of variety *latifolia* with the other three varieties is indicated by similarities in both floral and fruit characters. In Pernambuco it has been found along the Rio Gurjau, while in southern Bahia it occurs both along rivers and more commonly in forests on the uplands (Fig. 8). Its common names include "jatobá burundanga" and "jatobá farinha".



Fig. 5 — *Hymenaea oblongifolia*, var. *palustris* in riverside igapó, Rio Araguari, Amapá.

***Hymenaea parvifolia* Huber**

(Bol. Mus. Paraense Hist. Nat. 5: 385-386, 1909)

Hymenaea parvifolia, the only other Amazonian species belonging to sect. *Trachylobium*, can be separated from closely related species such as *H. oblongifolia* by the generally small, short, falcate leaflets; the narrowly oblanceolate and rarely clawed petals which are densely pilose on the upper sides; and the small, ovoid, often one-seeded fruit. The smallness of the fruit has led to the names "jutaí pororoca" and "jutaí pequeno". Two names (*H. microphylla* B. Rodr. and *H. pororoca* Huber) have appeared in the literature without published descriptions, but are considered synonyms of *H. parvifolia* (Ducke, 1915).

In contrast to *H. oblongifolia*, *H. parvifolia* occurs primarily in the drier eastern and central areas with annual rainfall less than 2500 mm

(Fig. 7). In the eastern zone it occurs in the coastal areas of Maranhão and Piauí, and in the forests of northeastern Pará. Also it has been collected commonly in campos in the Obidos area near Monte Alegre and Aleirim. It occurs relatively frequently in the terra firme forests near Santarém and Manaus, along the Rio Madeira, and in the northern part of Roraima. *Hymenaea parvifolia* is most commonly an emergent tree on sandy soil in terra firme forests (Fig. 6); however, it also occurs as small individuals in secondary forests (capoeiros) or in campos.

***Hymenaea courbaril*, L.**

(Sp. Pl. 1192, 1753)

Hymenaea courbaril is the most widely distributed species in the genus, having a range almost coincident with that of the entire genus. *Hymenaea courbaril*, morphologically typical of sect. *Hymenaea*, is thus separated



Fig. 6 — *Hymenaea parvifolia* on sandy terra firme in Palhão Reserve near Santarém, Pará.

from *H. oblongifolia* and *H. parvifolia* by inflorescence, floral and fruit characters. Within this section *H. courbaril* may be separated from *H. eriogyne* and *H. aurea* by its glabrous ovary; from *H. intermedia* and *H. adenotricha* by its more falcate leaflets and the large, oblong and compressed fruits; from *H. reticulata* by its relatively small and non-reticulate leaflets; from *H. rubriflora* by its glabrous leaflets and the white and ovate petals. Ecologically *H. courbaril* displays remarkable adaptability and occupies habitats ranging from caatinga (annual rainfall less than 500 mm) to the Amazonian hylaea, although it is more frequent in a variety of drier ecosystems north and south of the Amazon Basin proper (Fig. 9).

Two varieties of *H. courbaril* are presently recognized: var. *courbaril* and var. *subsessilis*.

Although they are similar in their falcate leaflets, they may be distinguished from one another by the length of the stipe and the shape of their fruits. The fruits of *H. courbaril* vary (often in the same individual) in size, in degree of compression, and in color. In fact, the fruits from one of our collections from the Palhão Reserve, near Santarém, Pará, are as large as 21 cm x 11 cm x 4.5 cm, the largest known. Generally, fruits of variety *courbaril* are longer and more compressed while in variety *subsessilis* they are shorter and more cylindrical. Ecological differentiation is also evident between these two varieties. *Hymenaea courbaril* var. *courbaril* is commonly found on terra firme in the Amazonian estuary, the littoral zone in Pará, and occasionally in the Central Zone (Fig. 9). In these terra firme sites it is an emergent tree, attaining such a

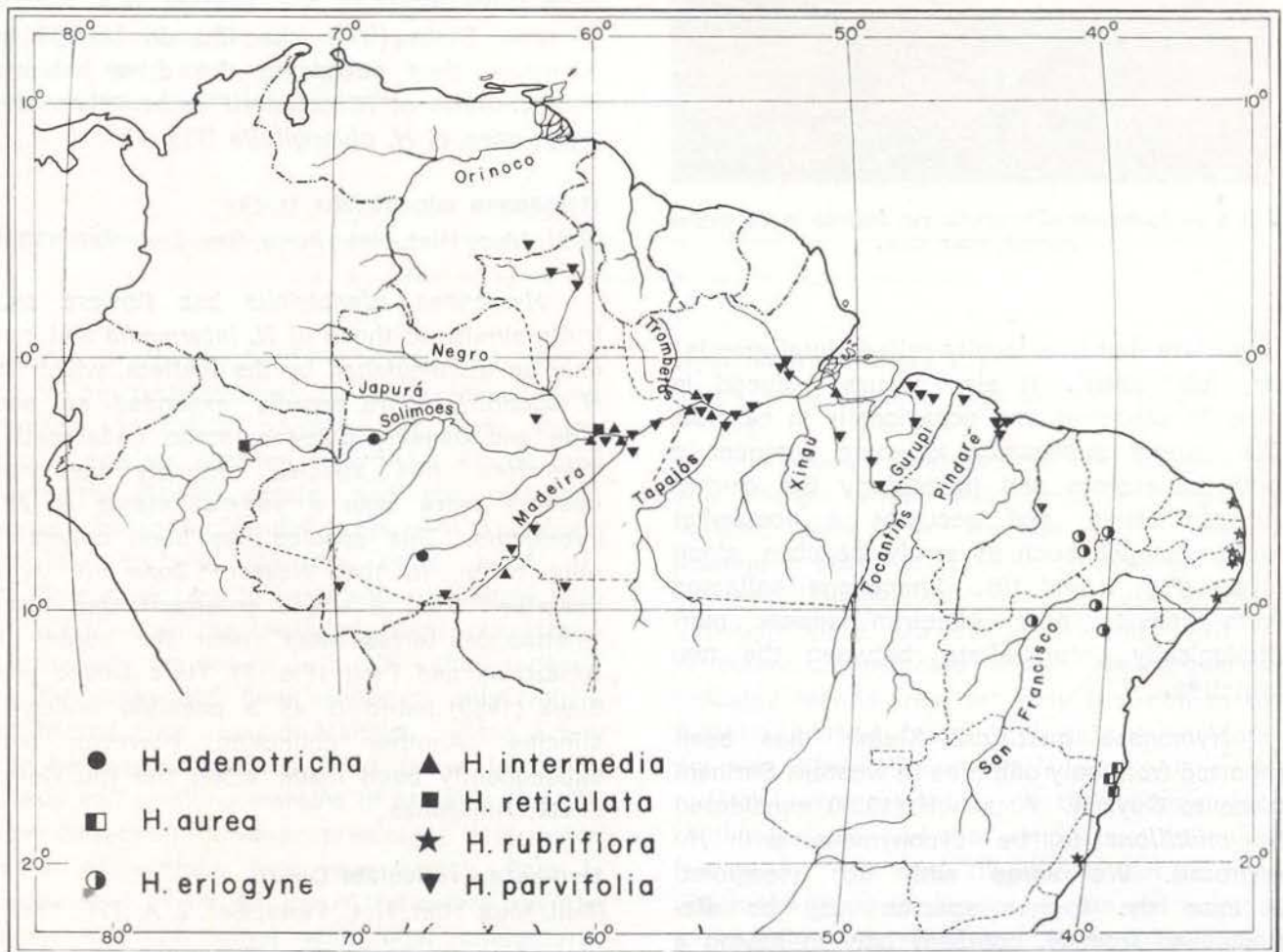


Fig. 7 — Distribution of *H. adenotricha*, *H. aurea*, *H. eriogyne*, *H. intermedia*, *H. parvifolia*, *H. reticulata*, and *H. rubriflora*.

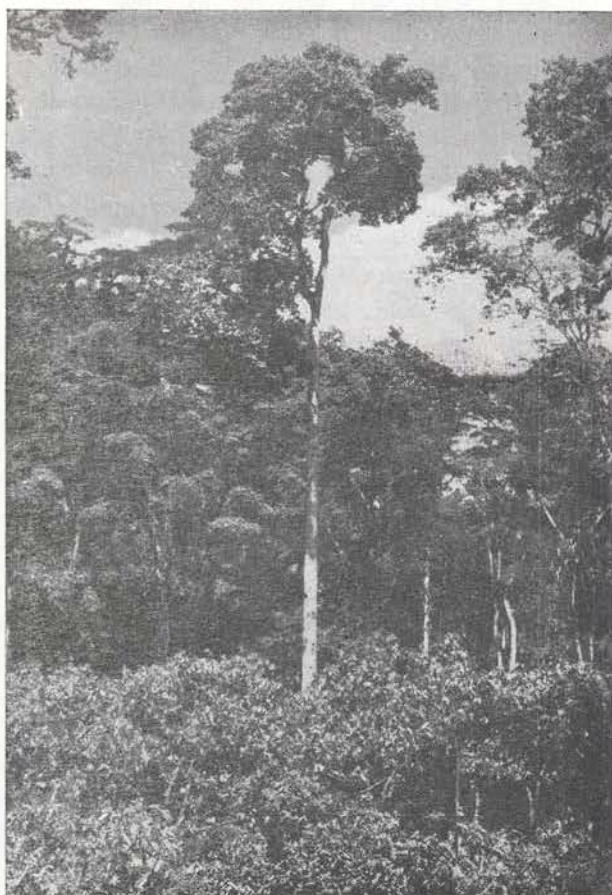


Fig. 8 — *Hymenaea oblongifolia* var. *latifolia* in the Bahian uplands near Una.

large size that it is locally called "jutaí grande" or "jutaí assu". It also occurs, reduced in size, in capoeiras and occasionally in campos. The variety *subsessilis* is more frequent in both the eastern and particularly the central Amazon Basin, and occupies a somewhat wetter habitat, such as sandy beaches along rivers (Fig. 9 and 10). Specimens collected from campos near Almeirim appear morphologically intermediate between the two varieties.

Hymenaea multiflora Kleinh. has been reported from only one area in western Surinam close to Guyana. Amschoff (1939) considered *H. multiflora* to be synonymous with *H. courbaril*. We agree with her viewpoint, because the former species may be distinguished from *H. courbaril* only in having a great density of small flowers in the inflorescence.

Hymenaea courbaril var. *obtusifolia*, which was described by Ducke from a specimen collected from a cultivated tree (with seed source probably from Ilha de Marajó) in the Museu Goeldi, Belém, is morphologically so similar to the typical form that we do not now consider it a valid variety.

Hymenaea intermedia Ducke
(Arch. Jard. Bot. Rio de Janeiro 3: 92, 1922)

Hymenaea intermedia is distinguished by its intermediate position in leaf and fruit characters between *H. courbaril* and *H. oblongifolia*. It differs from *H. oblongifolia* by its glabrous ovary and the densely corymbose inflorescence. It differs from *H. courbaril* in having much smaller flowers, more oblong leaflets, and a relatively small few-seeded fruit, rhomboidal when fully developed. *Hymenaea intermedia* is an emergent tree in the primary terra firme forest in the eastern and central Amazon Basin (from the Ilha do Marajó to Manaus), thus occupying the drier habitats characteristic of *H. courbaril* rather than the moist ones of *H. oblongifolia* (Fig. 7).

Hymenaea adenotricha Ducke
(Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat., Paris, Ser. 2, 4: 727, 1932)

Hymenaea adenotricha has flowers and fruits similar to those of *H. intermedia* and can only be distinguished by the leaflets, which in *H. adenotricha* are broadly expanded on one side and densely pale-tomentose underneath. Therefore, this species probably does not deserve more than a varietal status of *H. intermedia*. This species has been collected only twice, in the Western Zone. It was described from a single emergent tree from "mattas das terras altas" near the border of Amazonas and Peru (Fig. 7). Here Ducke and Black (1953) listed it as a possible endemic species. Another collection, however, has subsequently been made along the Rio Curuquetê, Amazonas.

Hymenaea reticulata Ducke
(Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat., Paris, Ser. 2, 4: 726, 1932)

In his original description, Ducke considered *Hymenaea reticulata* as morphologically

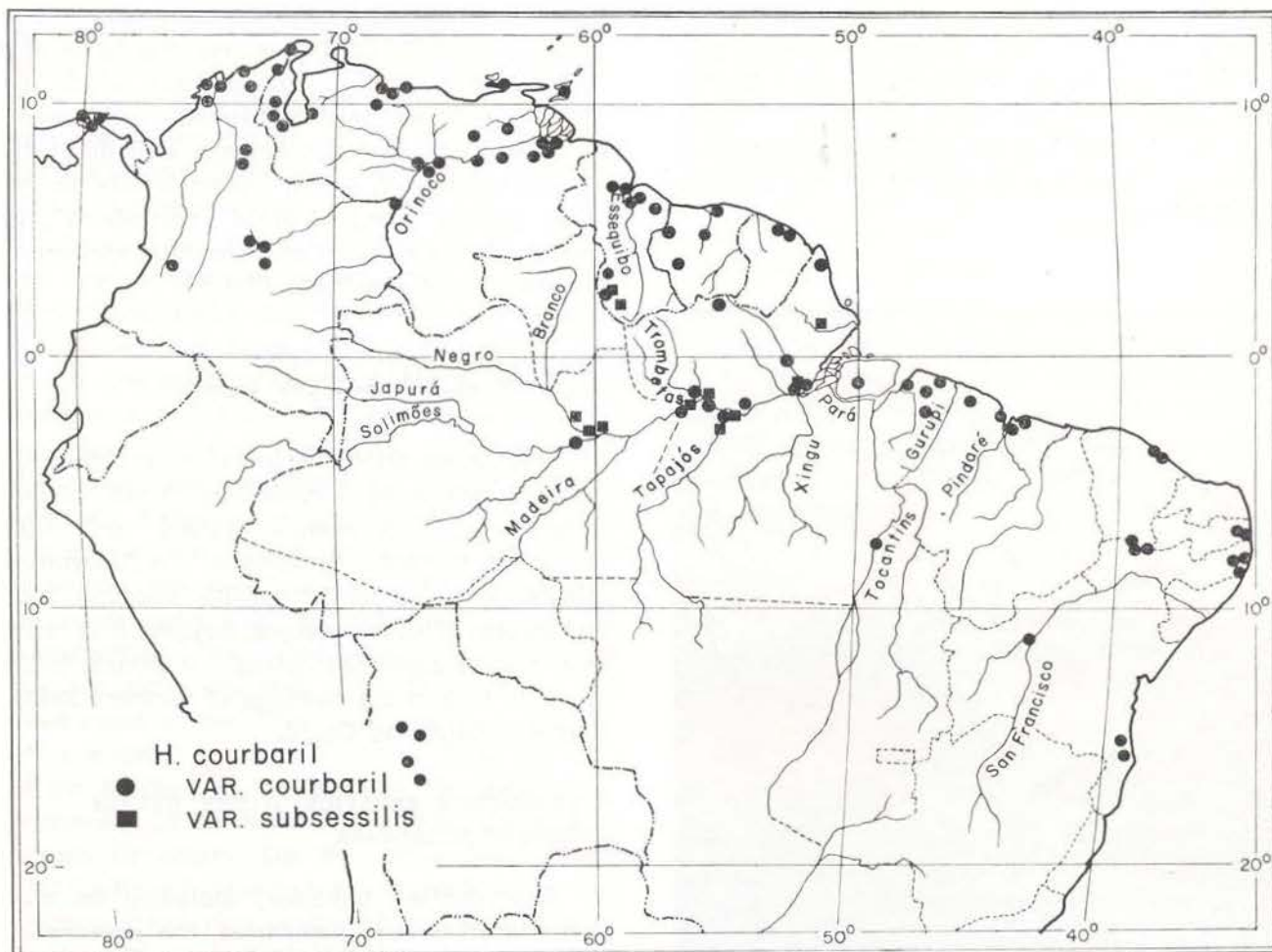


Fig. 9 — Distribution of *H. courbaril* and its variety *subsessilis*.

similar to *H. courbaril*, but indicated that it could be distinguished by large leaves with densely reticulate venation on both sides, much smaller flowers, narrowly elliptic and distinctly clawed petals, and the relatively large, oblong-rhomboidal fruits with a smooth, felt-like surface. On the other hand, *H. reticulata* appears to have some affinities with *H. rubiflora* on the basis of floral characters, particularly the nature of petals. Until recently *H. reticulata* had been reported only from a restricted area around Manaus, where a few big trees occur in the terra firme forest on sandy soil or along margins of streams (Fig. 7). One collection, however, previously determined as *H. oblongifolia*, from near Iquitos, Peru, is considered by us to be *H. reticulata* on the basis of both floral and foliar characters. Thus *H. reticulata* may occupy a wider range than has been thought.

Hymenaea rubriflora Ducke

(Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz 51: 457, 1953)

Hymenaea rubriflora, the first species we will discuss whose distribution is completely isolated from the Amazon Basin, clearly belongs in sect. *Hymenaea*. It does not show close relationships with any particular species, although there are some affinities with *H. reticulata* as indicated above. Its uniqueness probably results from an early isolation in the Atlantic coastal forest and subsequent independent differentiation. It is distinguished by reddish-brown tomentum on the under-surface of the leaflets, and the compressed fruit with few seeds. The most distinctive feature, from which the name is derived, is the red color of the petals and filaments. This coloration is unique in the genus, as all other species have white or occasionally pale rose-colored petals

and filaments. Until recently this species was known only from the evergreen forest near Recife, Pernambuco. It has now been collected from Rio Grande do Norte and Espirito Santo (Fig. 7). It thus has the widest distribution of *Hymenaea* species restricted to the Atlantic coastal forest.



Fig. 10 — *Hymenaea courbaril* var. *subsessilis* along sandy beaches near Curuá-Una, Pará.

Hymenaea aurea Lee and Langenheim
(J. Arnold Arbor. 54(1): 96-98, 1973)

The Atlantic coastal *Hymenaea aurea*, like *H. rubriflora*, has no immediate relatives in the genus, perhaps also the result of early isolation and subsequent independent differentiation. *Hymenaea aurea* may be separated from other

Hymenaea species by the dense, golden-yellow woolly tomentum on the ovary; the large, flat fruits; the obovate-oblong leaflets which are densely golden-brown tomentose underneath; and the relatively large flowers with distinctly clawed petals. *H. aurea*, known locally as "jatobá peloso" and "jatobá verdadeiro", is restricted to upland sites in coastal evergreen forests of southern Bahia (Fig. 7).

Hymenaea eriogyne Benth.
(Mart. Fl. Bras. 15(2): 237, 1870)

Hymenaea eriogyne, found in tree thickets in the caatinga of northeastern Brazil, clearly belongs by inflorescence, flower and fruit characters to sect. *Hymenaea*. Its Amazonian relationships, evident from its seedling type and pattern of ovary vesture, suggest it is relict from a once expanded hylaea. It occurs today as a low tree in the caatinga of northern Bahia, southern Piauí, and Ceará.

REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR OF THE HYLAEA SPECIES OF HYMENAEA

Reproductive behavior, including the size of the interbreeding population, the seasons of flowering and leaf drop and their correlation with pollinating agents, and the development of fruit and dispersal of seeds, is closely tied to ecological conditions and knowledge about it is important in providing background for interpretation of speciation.

THE INTERBREEDING POPULATION

The generally low density of individuals and species within the hylaea would appear to limit the genetically effective population size, i.e., the interbreeding population, unless this dispersion can be overcome by efficient pollinating mechanisms.

Species of *Hymenaea*, and individuals within species, are highly dispersed in stands which we have observed in the Amazonian and Atlantic coastal forest regions. In drier ecosystems, such as semideciduous forests and savannahs, the individuals may be more abundant, even to attaining a clearcut dominance (Langenheim, 1967, 1973). Quantified

sociologic descriptions of local Amazonian communities are rare (Black, Dobzhansky and Pavan, 1950; Pires, and Black, 1953; Takeuchi, 1961; Rodrigues, 1967), but *Hymenaea* species have been mentioned in two studies and generalizations from this work are pertinent to our considerations.

Species of *Hymenaea* occurred in two of the four Amazonian hylaea plots studied by Black, Dobzhansky and Pavan (1950) and Pires, Dobzhansky and Black (1953). Two individuals of an unknown species of *Hymenaea* were present in a 3.5 hectare terra firme plot 120 Km from Belém (Tres de Outubro), but *Hymenaea* was not found in a one hectare plot near Belém. Black, Dobzhansky and Pavan, however, indicated that they had encountered no more than half of the species in the communities they had analyzed with one hectare plots and that most of the rare, and even some of the moderately common species, were missing from their plots. Thus the size of the Belém plot may explain the absence of *Hymenaea* in an area and habitat where it is known to occur. On the other hand, three individuals of *Hymenaea* occurred in a one hectare igapó plot along the Rio Guamá near Belém. Three individuals of any species was the maximum number found in the one hectare plots; in fact, one-third of the species occurring in the one hectare plots were represented by a single individual. Two of the individuals of *Hymenaea* were identified as *H. parvifolia* and the third was unidentified. We suspect a misidentification of *H. parvifolia*, because in our experience it does not occur in the igapó, but instead in terra firme habitats. Nonetheless, these studies point out the high degree of dispersion of *Hymenaea* species and of individuals within species in the communities of these terra firme and igapó habitats in the Eastern Zone.

Also, comparison of data from these 1950 and 1953 studies showed considerable difference in composition between the two Pará terra firme plots less than 120 Km distant from each other. Of the 87 species found in the Belém plot and the 179 species in the Tres de Outubro plot, only 54 were in common to both. Some of the species recorded in one but not

the other place are known to be widely distributed in the terra firme forests of Pará and thus the authors of these phyto-sociological papers assumed their absence to be accidental. Only a few species occurred in common to the terra firme and igapó forests where the plots were only two kilometers apart; however, the environmental conditions are strikingly different in these two habitats.

Thus data both from general observations during collection of *Hymenaea* species and a few quantified phytosociologic descriptions suggest that efficient pollinating and dispersal agents would probably be necessary for the success of such highly dispersed species in the Amazonian hylaea.

FLOWERING, FRUITING AND LEAF DROP

Knowledge of the flowering period is essential to an understanding of pollinating mechanisms. Often there is an apparent relationship between flowering and vegetative activity, with flowering generally occurring when the trees are bare of leaves or at least after some leaf shed (Alvim, 1964). Beard (1946), however, indicates that among the deciduous trees of Trinidad one half flower when in leaf and fruit when bare. The other half flower when bare, but one quarter fruit in the following dry season with the others fruiting in the following wet season.

Unfortunately, few phenological records have been kept for hylaea species. The information for *Hymenaea* species (Table 1) has been compiled from flowering dates given on herbarium sheets, general observations, one phenological study made at the Ducke Reserve near Manaus from 1962 to 1965 (Araujo, 1970), and from unpublished Ducke Reserve records from 1966 to 1971 (Volpato and Schmidt, pers. comm.). Only general observations are available for leaf drop, since this is primarily a relative phenomenon, with *Hymenaea* generally being considered "evergreen". Thus only in certain species and under certain conditions is leaf drop noteworthy.

The primary flowering time for *Hymenaea* species in the Amazon and adjacent basins appears to be from September to November, although in some species it either starts a

Species	Months											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>H. oblongifolia</i>								F	F	F	F	
var. <i>oblongifolia</i>									F	F	F	
var. <i>palustris</i>												F?
var. <i>latifolia</i>	F	F										
var. <i>davissii</i>						F*						
<i>H. parvifolia</i>									F	F	F	F
<i>H. reticulata</i>									F	F	F	
<i>H. intermedia</i>						L	L	F	F	F		
<i>H. adenotricha</i>							F*	F*				
<i>H. courbaril</i>							F	F	F	F		
var. <i>courbaril</i>												
var. <i>subsessilis</i>							L	L	L	F	F	F
<i>H. aurea</i>	F	F					L	L				F
<i>H. rubriflora</i>	F?	F	F	F	F		F	L	L	L		F
<i>H. eriogyne</i>		F	F						L	L	L	

Table 1 — Time of flowering and leaf drop for hylaea species of *Hymenaea*. F = flowering. L = leaf drop.

* Information derived from a single specimen.

little earlier or lasts a little longer (Table 1). *Hymenaea courbaril* var. *courbaril*, *H. adenotricha* and *H. intermedia* seem to begin their flowering period earlier than *H. parvifolia*, *H. oblongifolia* var. *oblongifolia* and var. *palustris*, *H. reticulata* and even *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis*. The June flowering time of *H. oblongifolia* var. *davisii*, known from only one collection in Guyana, is aberrant from that of the Amazonian species.

In the Atlantic coastal forests, *H. oblongifolia* var. *latifolia* and *H. aurea* flower in January and February, although the latter species may begin flowering slightly earlier in December. *Hymenaea rubriflora* apparently has a much longer period of flowering, beginning in December and continuing until May in Pernambuco where most of the collections have been made. Flowering is also recorded in July from one collection of this species from Rio Grande do Norte. However, in the caatinga region of Piauí, *Hymenaea eriogyne* flowers during February and March, just before the onset of the short wet season.

Ducke and Black (1953) indicate from their collecting and general observations in the Amazon Basin that flowering of trees in the terra firme forests, where there is a long, heavy rainy season and a relatively dry season is restricted to the beginning or end of the dry season. In those parts of the hylaea where the two seasons of the year are not sharply defined and often irregular, flowering can be found in every month; in "normal" years, however, flowers are more abundant during the dry season, although, the particular schedule varies from species to species. Some do, however, flower in the rainy season. Phenological records in the Ducke Reserve study were kept only for *H. intermedia*, although general observations indicate somewhat similar patterns for *H. parvifolia* and *H. reticulata* (Volpato and Schmidt, pers. comm.). These species flowered here from August to November, in the middle of the driest season and into the transition to the wettest period, January to April (Fig. 2). The earlier flowering of *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril* and later flowering of *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis* at present cannot be explained in terms of climatic patterns. Also from the

limited data available, it appears that the várzea and igapó varieties of *H. oblongifolia* flower during the driest season (October and November) at least in the Belém area (Fig. 2). In the Western Zone, there are two distinct but shorter dry seasons in February and June to August (Fig. 2) and thus here these varieties of *H. oblongifolia* flower following the August dry season and in the transition to the wet season.

In the Atlantic coastal forests, *H. aurea* and *H. oblongifolia* var. *latifolia* flower in a relatively dry period from December through February before the heavy wet period from March to July; they do not, however, flower in the driest period from August to September (Fig. 2). *Hymenaea rubriflora* in Pernambuco starts toward the end of the dry season in December but continues well into the wet season in May.

We have observed fruit production generally to be heavy where we have collected. Available fruit collections in herbaria are very poor, but we have no way to evaluate whether fruit were not often present or whether the collector was not able to obtain them. Fruit remain on the tree for at least six to eight months, but when they fall to the ground, they often are quickly attacked by microorganisms, rodents or larger mammals such as wild pigs.

The Ducke Reserve phenological studies indicate that individuals of *H. intermedia* studied there flower and fruit on a two-year cycle. Flowering occurs from August to October of alternate years with fruit maturing in the following April and May (end of the rainy season). Whether other species follow this regime in the Amazon Basin is not known. Ducke and Black (1953), however, have noted that many trees of the "interior of the virgin forest" do not flower yearly, but only at intervals of several to many years.

Although *Hymenaea* is usually considered to be "evergreen", most species seem to be facultatively deciduous. Richards (1966) considers any tree which is mostly bare, even for a few days, to be classified as "deciduous". He further points out that deciduous trees by this definition are numerous in all tropical rainforests. These types of deciduous trees also almost always occur in the top storey or

are emergent trees in the rainforest. Young plants generally do not lose their leaves, but leaf drop appears to become more periodic as the tree attains maturity. Certainly, if one follows Richards' definition of "rainforest deciduousness", many species of *Hymenaea* would be considered to be deciduous rather than evergreen. The trees may go through a heavy leaf fall during dry periods and may even lose all of their leaves under severe moisture stress (Wilson, pers. comm.). Again, Araujo's (1970) phenological data for *H. intermedia* (with general observations also for *H. parvifolia* and *H. reticulata*) from the Ducke Reserve give us important leads to behavioral activity. Apparently leaf fall varies with the flowering-fruiting cycle. In years of flowering, leaf fall immediately precedes flowering; in years of fruiting, leaf fall occurs when flowering would normally. In both cases, however, the leaves fall during the dry period from June through September. Although many leaves fall each year, these trees are rarely completely denuded because of periodic flushing. The possible exception is *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis*, essentially restricted to the sandy beaches along the central Amazon, which apparently does become almost entirely defoliated from August to September. Also, *Hymenaea eriogyne* in the northeastern Brazilian caatinga was completely denuded when observed during November.

We have not observed leaf drop in the Amazonian varieties of *H. oblongifolia*. In addition, in the Atlantic coastal forest, *H. rubriflora* and *H. aurea* clearly lose a great many of their leaves during the dry season, but during these periods *H. oblongifolia* var. *latifolia* still possesses essentially a full complement of leaves.

It is unfortunate that so little data are available on leaf drop, for it appears that some species of *Hymenaea* behave differently from others. Leaf fall data might not only be useful in interpreting present moisture stress conditions but possibly in understanding species which had evolved mechanisms for adjusting to dry oscillations during the Pleistocene.

With the high degree of dispersion of individuals within the forest, pollinating mechanisms become critical. It has therefore been assumed that many tropical trees may be self fertile but, may also outcross when pollinators are available. Wind pollination appears to be a rare phenomenon in the rainforest, thus the activity of insects and bats is likely to be of considerable significance.

Like most other phenomena, pollinating mechanisms have been little studied in *Hymenaea*. Lee (1973) has pointed out that the inflorescence and floral structure of species within the two sections may suggest different major pollinating agents. The flowers of members of sect. *Trachylobium* are small, and are located at the edges of a conical panicle with long, flexuous branches; these characters suggest pollination by small-sized social insects which exhibit "opportunistic"-type behavior, as described by Janzen (1971b) and Baker (1973). In contrast, the flowers of species in sect. *Hymenaea* are larger and fewer, reach about the same level in anthesis, and are borne on short and strongly flexuous branches. These characteristics indicate the possibility of pollination predominantly by bats and larger, solitary insects with "trap-lining" behavior (Janzen, 1971b; Baker, 1973).

Information on floral behavior and pollination is presently only available from several populations of *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril*. Anthesis is nocturnal and Vogel (1968) has indicated that only one to five flowers in an inflorescence open at any particular time. Vogel (1968) and Frankie (pers. comm.) observed that flowers usually open at or just after sunset, between 5 and 9 p.m., and lose their calyx corolla and stamens by the following noon. Although the individual flowers are short-lived, the flowering period of a particular tree is continuous over several months. The flowers of *H. courbaril* have a strong odor and a massive nectary. This floral behavior also provides characteristics which favor bat pollination. In fact, bat visitation has been observed in *H. courbaril* by Carvalho (1960, 1961), Vogel (1968) and Frankie (pers. comm.). Carvalho observed bat visitation (*Glossophaga*

soricina) of *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril* near Belém, whereas Vogel studied their visitation (*Phyllostomus discolor*) shortly after sunset to *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis* near Manaus. Although Vogel also observed that hummingbirds and bees visited *Hymenaea* flowers before sunset, and sphinx and night moths after sunset, he thought that bats were probably the most efficient transmitters of pollen. Frankie has recorded visitation of unidentified bats to *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril* in the seasonally dry forests of Costa Rica. Bawa (pers. comm.) has also found *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril* to be self-incompatible in the same Costa Rican ecosystem in which Frankie has studied bat pollination. At present no other information is available regarding compatibility in *H. courbaril* in other ecosystem types nor for any other species, and it seems improbable that the data for this one species within a single kind of ecosystem should be extrapolated for other species and ecosystems.

Early-morning visitation of insects to flowers of *H. oblongifolia* var. *oblongifolia* in the Guamá Reserve near Belém has been recorded from observation towers built in the forest. Many bees and wasps have been collected but as yet are unidentified. Lee (1973) has also noted visitation of bees and butterflies to the flowers of *H. oblongifolia* var. *palustris* and var. *latifolia*.

Janzen (1967) has pointed out that the coincidence of leaf shed with the peak of flowering of many trees and maximum activity of pollinating insects during the dry season in the forests of Central America leads to an extremely efficient pollinating system. He further hypothesizes that this relationship between loss of leaves and peak flowering results from selection for the occurrence of pollination during the dry season at the most opportune time of the year for the activity of insects such as bees, rather than from physiological processes that could only occur at that time of year. Once a tree species has evolved such a periodicity, it would be difficult for it to break out of the pattern because of its leaving its pollinator behind and thus disrupting the reproductive process. Although leaf fall generally precedes flowering in the hylaea, where records of leaf fall are available, we

would presently assume that small insect pollination would predominate only in such species as *H. oblongifolia* and *H. parvifolia* with bat pollination being more important in the species within séct. *Hymenaea*. However, too little information on pollinating agents is presently available to allow thinking in terms of the potentialities of phenological synchronization with insect pollination as suggested by Janzen (1969). Likewise, Alvim (1964) has clearly indicated the need for further physiological studies of the effects of total radiation, changes in radiation quality, thermoperiod, and moisture stress on the growth periodicities of tropical trees. It seems possible that both physical environmental factors as well as pollinators may be involved in this synchronization.

Dispersal of the indehiscent pods occurs commonly by water. The pods float easily and apparently in salt water, at least, remain intact for long periods of time before being attacked by microorganisms. Water dispersal probably explains the relatively frequent distribution of *Hymenaea* along streams. Also occurrence of *H. courbaril* on islands in the West Indies and of *H. verrucosa* on African offshore islands is most likely due to water transport of the fruits, although Man may have aided in its distribution in some cases. On land, rodents and wild pigs have been observed to disperse the pods.

Seed predation is a serious problem in tropical lowland ecosystems. Janzen (1970) has even suggested that the low densities of many tropical tree species, with long distances between conspecific adults (particularly compared with temperate-zone forests), result from the action of predators on seeds and seedlings. A considerable amount of work has been done regarding seed predation on leguminous species, among which has been *H. courbaril* (Janzen, 1969, 1971a). Janzen has indicated that populations from Puerto Rico and Costa Rica are free from bruchid beetle attack (common to many leguminous trees) but several species of weevils of the genus *Rhinochenus* oviposit on the pods of Costa Rican populations. Several mechanisms may be used by the trees to avoid such predation. First, trees in relatively dense, seasonally dry

forest sites in Costa Rica appear to have a different reproductive pattern from those occurring in open sites. Those in the dense forest habitats have a several year (3-5) fruiting period whereas those in the open habitats may fruit in consecutive years. He suggests that the adaptive significance of sexual dormancy is in strongly reducing seed predation by *Rhinochenus* beetles (Janzen 1970, 1971a). This behavior of the tree means to the weevil that seeds are three to five times as sparse as would be indicated by the total density of the adult trees. Also, where this curculenoid weevil is absent (El Salvador north through southern Mexico and in Puerto Rico), the tree usually fruits every year. The second mechanism of protection against weevil attack probably is associated with the abundant resin produced in the walls of the pods. Rehr, Bell, Janzen and Feeny (1973) have shown that the seeds of *H. courbaril* from Costa Rican and Puerto Rican populations do not contain either uncommon amino acids or alkaloids that provide protection for some tropical leguminous seeds. Therefore, they conclude that the resins in the pod walls can provide an alternative strategy to seed toxins by physically forcing out the weevil as it attempts oviposition. From our work on the chemistry of the resins, it would seem theoretically possible that a number of either chemical or physical factors relating to changes in resin composition could deter the activities of these beetles.

From our greenhouse experiments we have discovered that seeds can remain viable for at least eight years and probably longer. For the first several years, the germination percentage is high in all of the species with which we have worked. When the seeds are older, the percentage of those which germinate decreases slightly. Scarified seeds usually germinate decreases slightly. Scarified seeds usually germinate within 10 days under favorable moisture and temperature conditions in the greenhouse or in growth chambers. Growth rates vary considerably for different species when grown under uniform environ-

mental conditions, with *H. courbaril*, however always displaying the most rapid growth. Most species grow relatively rapidly immediately following germination, then go into a slow growth stage which lasts differing periods dependent upon species, before continuing more rapid activity. Rapid germination and an ability of seedlings to remain alive for a long time in slow-growing condition have been pointed out as providing survival value to species having to cope with abundant seed predators of all types (fungi, bacteria and various kinds of animals) under tropical warm and humid conditions (Richards, 1952).

RESIN PRODUCTION OF THE HYLAEA SPECIES OF HYMENAEA

Copious production of resin by the hylaea species of *Hymenaea* permitted its being used commercially, especially for hard varnishes, and to a limited extent for medicinal purposes. Commercial collectors valued the resin, referred to in the trade literature as "Brazilian copal", and collected it particularly in the eastern Amazon Basin where certain local populations were noted for exceptional resin yields. The factors determining resin yield have as yet not been fully determined, but it appears both genetic and environmental factors are involved. Although the resin can probably be collected from many areas in the Amazon Basin, the great collection center seems to have been around the Ilha do Marajó near Belém and along tributaries such as the Xingu and Tapajós. *Hymenaea courbaril* has generally been considered to be the most abundant resin producer of the genus, but it now seems probable that resin was collected and utilized as "Brazilian copal" from species such as *H. oblongifolia* or *H. parvifolia* which today at least are more common in those areas than *H. courbaril*. Resin pieces varying in size from that of a pea to that of a man's foot were often recovered from streams (Howes, 1949). Record and Hess (1943) indicate that "gatherers dig around the roots and sometimes obtain a barrelful of copal

lumps in a place, while the former site of a tree, long since decayed, may yield several barrels of so-called fossil copal". There is no indication that the trees were tapped for the copal, nor were the leguminous Congo and Zanzibar copals obtained by tapping.

Hymenaea secretes resin by two anatomical mechanisms, either into schizogenously produced pockets surrounded by an epithelial layer of secretory cells, or into lysigenously produced cavities resulting from the breakdown of the walls of the secretory cells (Langenheim, 1967). The schizogenous pockets form in parenchyma tissue in leaves, young stems, floral parts and fruits. In these pockets, primarily sesquiterpene hydrocarbons and a few oxygenated sesquiterpenes are present. Resin does not appear to be synthesized in young roots, but as the root and stem develop secondary tissue, resin composed primarily of diterpenoids with some sesquiterpenes is produced. The cavities into which the viscous resin is secreted may be continually increased by the lysigenous breakdown of the secretory cells, allowing the accumulation of large amounts. When a natural or manmade break in the bark occurs, the material may be exuded to the exterior of the tree. In pods, resin consisting mainly of diterpenoids and some sesquiterpenoids is produced, although its composition is quite different from that of trunk resin. The pod resin is secreted initially into schizogenous pockets, but these can be enlarged by lysigeny when injury occurs to the fruit. Thus the pods frequently are covered by masses of resin, often filling and exuded through channels resulting from attempts by *Rhinochenus* beetles to penetrate the fruit.

The leaf pocket resin of all *Hymenaea* species we have examined is comprised of essentially the same set of sesquiterpenes, about a dozen of significance (1% or more of the total). Caryophyllene and *a*- and β -selinene are usually the predominant compounds. We report the latter two compounds together, as *a* + β -selinene, because there appears to be no significance to the particular isomer present, wide variations in their proportions occurring within a given

population. A list of compounds with an identification number for each sesquiterpene, to be used in the figures and discussion to follow, is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Leaf pocket resin sesquiterpenes in *Hymenaea*.

Compound number	Sesquiterpene
1	<i>a</i> - cubebene
2	<i>a</i> - copaene
3	unidentified
4	β - copaene
5	caryophyllene
7	β - humulene
8	γ - muurolene
9	<i>a</i> + β - selinene
10	unidentified
11	δ - cadinene
12	γ - cadinene
13	unidentified
14	unidentified

Table 2 — Leaf pocket resin sesquiterpenes in *Hymenaea*

The remarkable consistency in leaf pocket resin chemistry among the *Hymenaea* species is in contrast to both qualitative and quantitative differences found between *Hymenaea* and such closely related genera as *Daniellia* and *Guibourtia* (Martin and Langenheim, unpub. data).

Within this set of sesquiterpenes common to the species of *Hymenaea*, quantitative composition of their leaf pocket resins shows specific differences (Figure 11). The experimental plants for this study were germinated and grown in our greenhouses under essentially identical environmental conditions. Quantitative analysis were made by gas chromatography of ether extracts of fresh leaves, as described elsewhere (Martin, Langenheim and Zavarin, 1973). We have analyzed these quantitative leaf pocket resin composition of Amazonian *Hymenaea* (Figure 11) for the relationships they suggest. We wish to emphasize, however, that these data are based on seedlings grown from seed originating from a single geographic locality. The leaf pocket resin composition data should, therefore, be considered repre-

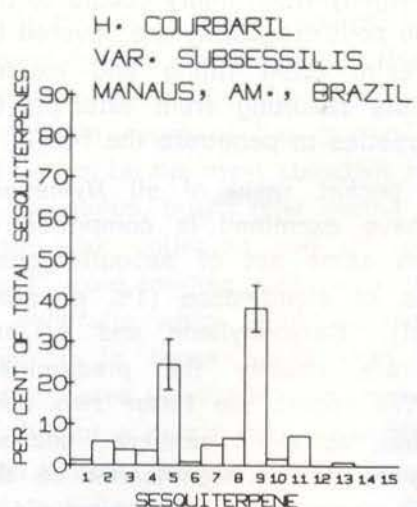
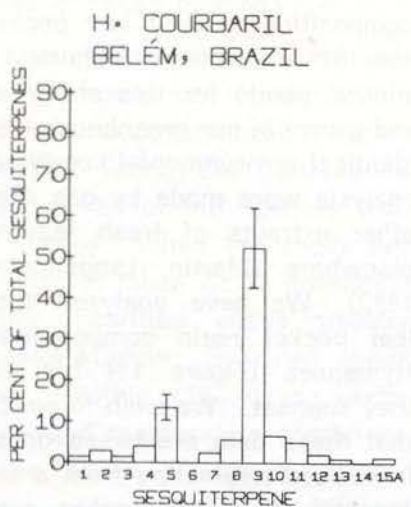
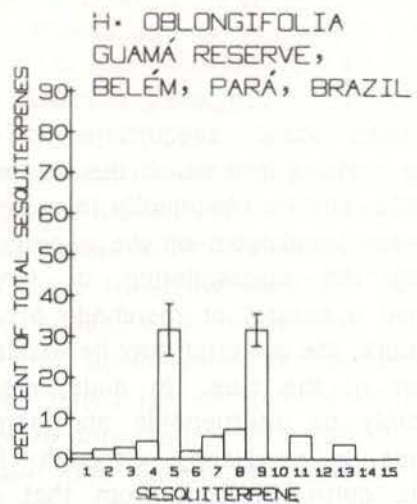
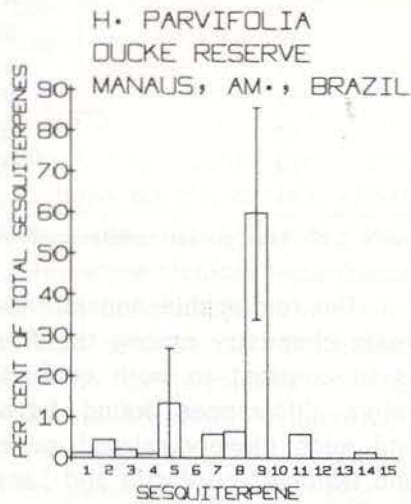
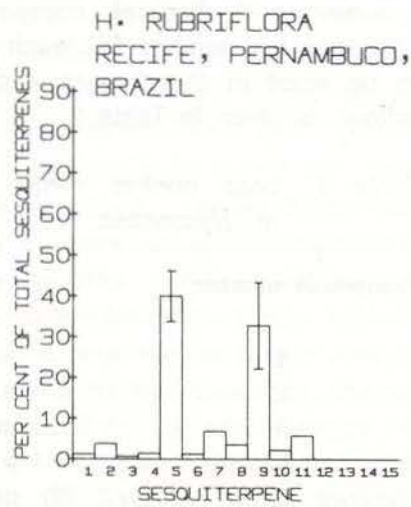


Fig. 11 — Leaf pocket resin compositions of Amazonian species of Hymenaea. Each graph shows the mean of eight samples except *H. reticulata* (5 samples) and *H. rubriflora* (3 samples). One standard deviation above and below the mean is shown for caryophyllene and α + β selinene.

sentative of the local population sampled rather than of an entire species.

Full details of the statistical analysis of leaf pocket resin composition among Amazonian and other *Hymenaea* species have been described elsewhere (Martin, 1973). To summarize briefly, an analysis of variance was performed for each sesquiterpene, excluding those present in trace amounts in all species. The ten compounds showing highly significant ($p = 0.01$) F tests in the analysis of variance were further examined by Duncan's new multiple range test to determine which species or population means were highly significantly different from one another (Steel and Torrie, 1960). This analysis indicated that no single species of the Amazonian *Hymenaea* is completely quantitatively different from any other in every compound; the underlying qualitative similarity has already been emphasized. *Hymenaea reticulata* is chemically the most unusual, differing from *H. oblongifolia* [(and from the two African geographic populations of *Hymenaea verrucosa* examined (Martin, Langenheim and Zavarin, 1973)] in quantitative contents of six of the ten compounds. In contrast, it differs significantly from the Manaus populations of *H. parvifolia* and *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis* in content of only three of the ten sesquiterpenes.

The two geographic populations of *H. courbaril* (Belém and Curuá-Una) differ significantly only in their content of the minor compound 3. The Belém population differs from *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis* in content of minor compounds 3 and 10, while Curuá-Una *H. courbaril* differs from variety *subsessilis* only in compound 10 content. The close relationship among these three populations of *H. courbaril* is therefore clearly demonstrated in their leaf pocket resin chemistry.

H. oblongifolia differs significantly from *H. courbaril* var. *subsessilis* only in content of compound 13. Traces of this compound are present in the other species, but in *H. oblongifolia* constitutes 3.6% of the total sesquiterpenes. More differences are shown by *H. oblongifolia* it constitutes 3.6% of the total sesquiterpenes. More differences are shown by *H. oblongifolia* in comparison with the Belém and Curuá-Una populations of *H. courbaril*, with

five and three differences respectively being significant.

Further analysis of quantitative leaf pocket resin composition of these Amazonian populations of *Hymenaea* has been made by treating the data by the methods of numerical taxonomy to obtain coefficients of association or similarity (Sokal and Sneath, 1963). Analysis of variance weighted similarity coefficients were obtained and clustered by the single linkage method in order to more readily visualize the chemical relationship among the Amazonian *Hymenaea* species and populations (Martin, 1973). In this way, the three geographic populations of *H. courbaril* cluster together. There appears to be little difference in the grouping of the other species, although *H. rubriflora* and *H. parvifolia* form a less well-defined group. *H. oblongifolia* and *H. reticulata* stand apart in this analysis.

We have previously suggested that *Hymenaea oblongifolia* may be the primitive stock from which many species have evolved. Because the leaf pocket resin chemistry of the Amazonian species of *Hymenaea* is qualitatively alike, one cannot discern evolutionary lines; clearly, however, the chemical data do not disallow the possibility that *Hymenaea oblongifolia* could be the parental stock. Alterations in quantitative resin composition might have accompanied processes of differentiation into specific habitats, leading to the populational and specific differences found today.

Trunk resins, usually found as solidified masses on the exterior of the tree, were the point of our initial interest in *Hymenaea*. It was through infrared spectral comparison of *Hymenaea* trunk resins with amber from Mexico, Colombia and Brazil that their amazing similarity was recognized, and *Hymenaea* established as the source of the fossilized resin (Langenheim, 1966, 1967, 1969). All of the *Hymenaea* trunk resins consist primarily of diterpenoids, with some sesquiterpenoids and small amounts of non-terpenoid material. The diterpenoids include a series of compounds having basically similar skeletons, but representing various oxidation stages: hydrocarbons, aldehydes, alcohols and acids. We have investigated primarily the resin acids, major components of the resin (20 to 38% in our

samples) which are of special interest because they are potentially useful for chemosystematic purposes (Harborne, 1971).

Prior to our beginning work on *Hymenaea* trunk resins, two other groups had investigated resins of species within the genus. Nakano and Djerassi (1961) described from a commercial "Brazil copal" sample the bicyclic diterpenoid copalic acid and several double bond isomers. Another group identified eight resin acids and several neutral fraction compounds from the trunk resin of *Hymenaea verrucosa*, then known as *Trachylobium verrucosum* (Hugel, Oehlschlagel and Ourisson, 1966). Excluding one sesquiterpenoid, all of these compounds were based on the bicyclic *enantio*-labdane skeleton. Subsequently, we have characterized from other species of *Hymenaea* seven *enantio*-labdane type resin acids (Cunningham, Martin and Langenheim 1973a and unpub. data), and one resin acid having the normal labdane skeleton (Cunningham, Martin and Langenheim, 1973b). Through gas chromatography of resin acid methyl esters, we have found that most of these resin acids are common to several *Hymenaea* species, although proportions of compounds vary enormously. Unfortunately, quantitative comparisons of resin acids in trunk samples is not justified for the following reason. Trunk resin samples as normally obtained consist of solidified masses collected from the exterior of the tree, where they have been exposed to the atmosphere for unknown lengths of time. It is known that upon exudation, trunk resin undergoes progressive oxidation and polymerization; the exact nature and rates of these processes, their importance under varying environmental conditions, and the consequent potential compositional change in trunk resins with time are not known. This difficulty effectively prohibits any detailed quantitative comparison of the trunk resins of the various *Hymenaea* species, although such differences are almost certainly present.

Our increasing knowledge of trunk resins of *Hymenaea* species has the interesting potential of soon allowing chemical comparison with the fossil resins known to originate from *Hymenaea*. The stability of a fundamental structural pattern in the resin chemistry

through long periods of time is clearly reflected by the underlying similarity in resin components among species of the genus as we know it today.

EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF THE HYLAEA SPECIES OF HYMENAEA

Evidence from several sources supports an Africa origin for the genus *Hymenaea*, despite its primary distribution today being Neotropical. First, its closest relatives are the African genus *Guibourtia* and the Pantropical *Cynometra*, which has its center of diversity in Africa. *Hymenaea* has no evident close affinities with Neotropical genera; a close relationship to *Peltogyne* has been previously suggested, but Lee (1973) shows this relationship to be relatively distant. Secondly, Brenan (1965) has pointed out that 67% of the Caesalpinioideae are endemic to Africa, the most prominent components belonging within the Amherstieae-Cynometreae (Detarieae) tribal complex. Ducke and Black (1953) have further stated that the Caesalpinioideae have their secondary center of diversity in the Amazon Basin. Unfortunately, there is no accredited evidence for this tribal complex in the geologic record until the Paleocene Epoch (Germeraad, Hopping and Muller, 1968; Muller, 1970). About 75% of the African Caesalpinioideae are restricted to evergreen rainforest habitats, and the sub-family likewise reaches its optimum development in the Neotropics in the Amazonian hylaea. During the Eocene Epoch, tropical rainforest vegetation reached its maximum development, probably attaining almost double the area of its present distribution (Wolfe, 1971). Thus an Early Tertiary speciation (if not origin) of the Caesalpinioideae seems likely and conditions during the Eocene were probably excellent for dispersal. With increased population size of the rainforest species, a greater number of disseminules would be supplied for dispersal, while at the same time the area suitable for colonization was larger.

Hymenaea verrucosa in eastern Africa appears to be a relict of a once more continuous distribution in evergreen rainforests across Africa, and the clear ties between the African and Amazonian species (members of sect. *Trachylobium*) is one of the most im-

portant factors in considerations of the origin of the genus *Hymenaea*. A possible explanation for both the origin of the genus and the amphiatlantic distribution pattern is an assumed common West Africa rainforest ancestral stock (Langenheim and Lee, 1973). Two explanations may then be presented for the Neotropic distribution: 1) union of the South American and African continents, or 2) oceanic dispersal.

Although it is assumed that Africa and South America were united, geologic evidence indicates that drifting of the two continents took place too early (around the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary) to explain the disjunct distribution of the New World and African species of *Hymenaea* or their immediate ancestors. Even if drifting occurred during the middle of the Cretaceous, as suggested by Veevers, Jones and Talent (1971) and Raven and Axelrod (1972), it is highly problematic whether any living genera of angiosperms existed at that time. Thorne (1973) also points out that the "tenuous links" between tropical Africa and tropical America and the stronger floristic relationships of tropical Africa and South America to other continents rule out continental drift as a valid explanation for amphiatlantic disjunctions. In a careful analysis of the taxa occurring on the two continents, he believes that the distribution patterns indicate occasional long-distance oceanic dispersal rather than retention of ancient wide ranges split by continental drift. However, migration was probably easier between the continents during late Cretaceous and early Tertiary time because long after the two continents were separated there was fairly direct access across relatively narrow seas and possibly along volcanic islands on mid-ocean ridges. Thus it seems more probable that oceanic dispersal could have occurred from the African ancestral stock during the Early Tertiary to rainforests of the New World — one successful establishment leading to the Cuban species *H. torrei* and another to the differentiation of the hylaea species centering around *H. obongifolia*. Subsequently the rainforest species in the New World have provided the stock for species which radiated into the drier ecosystems in drying trends during Middle to Late Tertiary

time and during dry oscillations of the Pleistocene.

Paleontologic data suggest that rainforest flora (Archangelsky, 1968) and associated faunas during the Eocene were as far south as central Patagonia on the South American continent. Menéndez (1969) and Simpson (1969) present evidence from both fossil plants and mammals which indicates that strong climatic change occurred in South America during the Cenozoic, similar in mirror image to that better established in North America and other northern continents. Early in the Cenozoic Era, climatic zones were less marked than today. Typically tropical fauna, such as crocodylians and certain large snakes, occurred in areas which now are temperate. In Late Oligocene there were also arboreal mammals of subtropical to tropical kinds, monkeys, and somewhat later anteaters and tree sloths far south of their present distribution. By the Miocene Epoch, however, the climate was on the way to drier and cooler conditions and that change, with Pleistocene fluctuations, has continued to the present.

Although the presence of rainforest vegetation in southern South America in the Early Tertiary Period and its retreat northward later in the Tertiary is generally accepted, it also has commonly been assumed that the Amazonian hylaea probably has remained relatively unaffected by climatic change. In fact, the enormous diversity of animal species in equatorial rainforests has often been explained on the basis of climatic stability through time (Darlington, 1957; Schwabe, 1969). In other words, the assumption is that communities will tend to diversify with passage of time and thus older communities will contain more species than younger ones. It also has been assumed that stable climates will permit the evolution of finer adaptations, with finer specialization allowing more different kinds of organisms to be accommodated, i.e., greater niche differentiation (McArthur, 1969; Baker, 1970).

Relatively recent evidence from a variety of sources, however, has suggested the possibility that the Amazonian hylaea may also have been disrupted by the drying trends initiated during the Miocene Epoch and by subsequent wet-dry oscillations during the Pleistocene. Sombroek (1966) has summarized geo-

morphological and soils data from Barbosa and Ramos (1950), Wilhelmy (1952) and Ab'Saber (1959, 1967) which indicate that semi-arid climates occurred during the Miocene and Pliocene, probably resulting in "open vegetation types" in the area now occupied by hylaea. Also the hylaea was greatly restricted during the Plio-Pleistocene, when a great lake occupied most of the central area of the basin from the Andes to the Atlantic mouth of the river. Sombroek states that, during the deposition of the Pleistocene terrace materials, the Amazon valley must have had a long and pronounced dry season which limited the growth of dense vegetation, and a short and intense rainy season which created strong erosional capabilities. In the present West African rainforests, convincing geologic evidence has been found for the presence of Kalihari sands, and hence a relatively arid climate, both in Middle Pleistocene (75,000-55,000 years ago) and later (22,000 years ago). This indication of aridity in the African equatorial zone during the Pleistocene (Moreau, 1966) adds to the credibility of such a phenomenon occurring in the Amazonian area.

Recent studies on bird, anolid lizard and lepidopteran speciation in the hylaea have resulted in an hypothesis that climatic oscillations during the Pleistocene had dramatic effects upon vegetational habitats of these organisms (Haffer, 1969; Vanzolini and Williams, 1970; Vuilleumier, 1971; Brown, 1972; Brown and Mielke, 1972; Vanzolini, 1973). The speciation model assumes at least three alternations of wet and dry periods during the last 100,000 years. During the dry phases it is hypothesized that dry-type ecosystems disrupted the hylaea, reducing it to isolated patches where conditions were relatively more favorable than over the major portion of the basin. For the forest fauna these areas acted as refuges in which populations were isolated and consequently became differentiated. In subsequent wet phases, the formerly isolated animal populations followed the spread of the forest. Where the populations met in reforested areas, complex character variation reflected the degree of genetic divergence reached during the period of isolation. Vanzolini (1973) points out that it is essential to the arguments presented for the speciation model

for birds and lizards that the areas of refuge are peripheral to Amazon Basin and determined by topographic features. In other words, both Vanzolini and Haffer emphasize the repeated, relatively rapid fluctuation of hylaea between occupancy of vast areas to reduction to a few isolated peripheral patches. In fact, this peripheral location and rapidity of climatic changes appear to them to explain the great diversity of the Amazonian biota. Each new coalescence of expanding refugia would provide a complex mixing of populations that had been differentiated during isolation.

The correlations in time of the humid-arid cycles with South American glacial events remain controversial. Presently, few logical data confirm this hypothesis, although Vuilleumier (1971) suggests that future work may well document this synchronization. Paleobotanical evidence also is not available from Amazonia; however, palynological data from northern South America (van der Hammen, 1961) indicate repeated changes over large areas in the Pleistocene that do correlate with glacial events.

Only animal populations have been considered in these recent discussions of Pleistocene climatic changes affecting the Amazonian hylaea. However, wet-dry Pleistocene oscillations and their influence on vegetational changes in equatorial Africa have been discussed by Aubreville (1962). Also, Stebbins (1952) has presented a speciation model for higher plants which is applicable to the Amazonian situation. He has hypothesized that the most rapid evolution of higher plants should take place in habitats which are changing and those in which some factor is limiting. He thus thinks that many species originate under limitation of moisture and then may become readapted to moist conditions under influence of some climatic changes. In regions isolated from each other, the xerophytes continue their divergent evolution. In this way, the flora of a mesic region could contain members of the same genus or family, all adapted to essentially similar conditions but adapted in different ways, and hence distinguished from each other because of different evolutionary histories. These ideas provide a speciation model for higher plants similar to those presented for the

animals under wet-dry oscillations, and consequently expansion and contraction of rainforest and drier ecosystem types. The present floristic diversity in the Amazonian hylaea, with relatively large patches of campos and caatingas comprised of natural, non-hylaea type vegetation, campinas of specialized hylaea flora, areas of seasonally dry forests, and shrubby vegetation capping low "serras", suggest a complex history of dry climates in the past as well as the diversity of climatic and edaphic conditions today. In addition, Ducke and Black (1953) have emphasized that the presence of the same species of plants in several or many campos or campinas, which are separated by extensive areas of hylaea, implies the "remote origin" of these vegetation types.

In the evolution of *Hymenaea* species there appears to have been adaptive radiation from humid evergreen forest to a variety of drier ecosystem types over a wide geographic range. This differentiation was probably initiated during the Mid Tertiary drying trend and perhaps continued during periods of oscillation between wet and dry conditions during the Pleistocene. In the South American hylaea, *Hymenaea* species also are ecologically differentiated into several of the drier local vegetation types. One can then speculate whether or not their distribution and morphological variability give evidence for past climatic changes in the hylaea.

Species in the "Hylaea Bahiana", such as *H. aurea*, were probably initially isolated by Mid Tertiary drying trends, although there may have been additional modifications of this coastal habitat during marine transgressions in the Plio-Pleistocene. Elements of the older tropical flora appear to have found a refugium in the uplands where *H. aurea* occurs (Lee and Langenheim, 1973). *Hymenaea eriogyne*, occurring in forest patches of the caatinga of northeastern Brazil, appears to be a relict of rainforest stock isolated in extremely arid conditions. It would likewise be assumed that this differentiation probably took place during the Tertiary.

With respect to ecological differentiation within the hylaea, the distribution of the polytypic *H. oblongifolia* is especially interesting. It is the species closest to the African

H. verrucosa, and we assume that the two species arose from a common West African stock (Langenheim and Lee, 1973). We also have hypothesized that this species probably became established during the Early Tertiary when 1) rainforest vegetation was most widespread and the probabilities for dispersal were greatest, and 2) the continents were closer together than today. In other words, we are assuming that *H. oblongifolia* was an early inhabitant of the Amazonian-type hylaea. It seems reasonable that disseminules of the present stock *H. oblongifolia* arrived from West Africa either in the region of the Amazon Basin via the South Equatorial Current or to a more southerly site via the Brazil Current. In either case, the primary distribution of the species today is represented by variety *oblongifolia* in the várzeas of the eastern and western zones of the Amazon Basin. The variety *palustris* has a similar distribution to variety *oblongifolia* but has differentiated into the igapó habitat. The occurrence of *H. oblongifolia* in these habitats might lend additional support to the hypothesis of its early appearance in the Amazon, as the várzea and igapó are likely to represent the oldest habitat types, existing as long as the river itself. The plants inhabiting them would also not be forced to tolerate the effects of drying conditions as much as those on the terra firme. Consequently, the occurrence of *H. oblongifolia* in the complex network of igapó, várzea and terra firme in the Western Zone could have provided an ideal situation for speciation from wet to progressively drier habitats. In addition, the record of var. *palustris* occurring along a river near the coast of Colombia could be interpreted as indicative of a more extensive past distribution, a relict of hylaea conditions previous to the rise of the Andes in Middle Tertiary time.

Further differentiation of the *H. oblongifolia* complex is represented by variety *davisii* in the hylaea of Guyana, where it occurs in moist sites along rivers. On the other hand, variety *latifolia* occurs principally in upland sites, although it also is found along streams in this habitat. It seems clear, therefore, from the range of habitats in which the varieties of *H. oblongifolia* occur, that it is a plastic stock in which some morphological and probably

physiological differentiation has taken place with local ecological isolation. It has the widest distribution of any hylaea species of *Hymenaea*. The restriction of the varieties *oblongifolia* and *palustris* to the moist eastern and western zones of the Amazon Basin appears curious, since várzea and igapó plants are usually water dispersed and tend to occur along the length of the Amazon. Ducke and Black (1953), however, point out that some plants are distributed in the Eastern and Western Zones, but missing in the Central Zone. Whether this distributional phenomenon could be related to both lesser annual precipitation and a more pronounced dry season in the Central Zone is not known.

The only other member of sect. *Trachylobium* occurring in the hylaea, *H. parvifolia*, is relatively closely related to the *H. oblongifolia* complex, but apparently represents a drier habitat facies. It occurs primarily on sandy terra firme sites within the Eastern and Central Zones of Amazonia, although a few collections have been made in the Southwestern section along the upper Rio Madeira and in Acre. Considerable morphological variability characterizes the populations of *H. parvifolia* and this variability is also reflected in the quantitative sesquiterpene composition of the leaf pocket resin. *Hymenaea parvifolia* occurs in the campo and savannah areas more than any other hylaea species of *Hymenaea* than possibly *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril*. Its form ranges from shrub-like in the center of the campo to emergent tree in the neighboring rainforest. Apparently non-hylaea species characterize most campos; however, *H. parvifolia* occurs in both habitats. It is in these campo-hylaea areas where *H. parvifolia* displays its greatest variability. This situation may possibly fit the model suggested by Stebbins (1952).

Hymenaea courbaril has the widest distribution of any species of *Hymenaea*, occurring essentially over the range of the entire genus in every major ecosystem type, thus giving evidence of amazing ability to adjust to a gradient of moisture stress conditions. *Hymenaea courbaril* var. *courbaril* seems to be less common in the Amazon Basin than in northern South America and Central America where it is very common and may even attain dominance

in drier forest ecosystems. It generally seems best adapted to seasonally dry and savannah forests than to continually moist hylaea. However, specimens have been collected in several isolated pockets in the extreme northwestern and southwestern portions of the hylaea (Fig. 9). Although most of these specimens are incomplete, they appear to belong to *H. courbaril* var. *courbaril*. The habitat data also are poor, but several specimens clearly come from the hylaea, whereas some in Bolivia are from relatively high elevations (900-1800 m) on the western side of the Andes. This distribution of *H. courbaril* is particularly anomalous, since no other specimens have been collected, to our knowledge, either south or west of Manaus (Fig. 9). It does have a distribution south of the Amazon in central and eastern Brazil where considerable variation suggests new varieties may be recognized in the future. Also it appears to be the parental stock for radiation of closely related cerrado species such as *H. stilbocarpa*, *H. martiana* and *H. stigonocarpa* (Lee, 1973). In the Amazon Basin, *H. courbaril* seems best represented by its variety *subsessilis*, which most generally occurs along sandy beaches or tributaries in the central Amazonian region. Here it is a tree much reduced in size which essentially becomes denuded of its leaves during the dry season and flowers on a different schedule from variety *courbaril*. It could possibly be a form which developed during a dry interval of the Pleistocene.

Hymenaea intermedia morphologically is intermediate between *H. oblongifolia* and *H. courbaril*. *Hymenaea intermedia* generally occurs on terra firme in a relatively restricted area of the drier parts of the Central Zone and western part of the Eastern Zone. Ecologically *H. intermedia* is closer to *H. courbaril* than to *H. oblongifolia*. However, the closely related species *H. adenotricha*, probably best considered only a variety of *H. intermedia*, occurs on terra firme sites of the moist Western Zone. It seems possible that *H. intermedia* represents the stock most closely related to *H. oblongifolia* from which the physiologically plastic *H. courbaril* could have evolved. From its present distribution we might surmise that *H. courbaril*

(and its closely related species in the dry ecosystem types) evolved during the drying trends of the Mid Tertiary. We have evidence for *H. courbaril*, or possibly *H. intermedia*, occurring as remains in Oligo-Miocene amber in Chiapas, Mexico (Langenheim, 1966) thus indicating a wide northern distribution at this time.

Hymenaea reticulata is thought to be related to *H. courbaril* and possibly *H. rubriflora*, although it is a distinctive species. It is also distinctive from all other Amazonian *Hymenaea* in the quantitative composition of its leaf pocket resin. Until recently, it appeared to have a very restricted distribution in relatively dry terra firme sites in the central Amazon near Manaus. An additional collection from near Iquitos, Peru, extends its range westward and possibly indicates that it was distributed more widely in the past.

Although our present evidence regarding speciation within Amazonian *Hymenaea* does not clearly support the hypothesis of dry oscillations during the Pleistocene which greatly restricted the Amazonian hylaea, it does not negate the possibility. Certainly there is evidence that evolution within the genus has responded to dry environmental conditions. The distribution of species is obviously related to moisture gradients and emphasizes the heterogeneity of the present environmental conditions and flora within the hylaea. The Amazonian hylaea today is definitely not a "vast uniform habitat"; in fact, as noted previously, the area of heterogeneous seasonally dry forest, savannah, campo, campina and caatinga is considerable. Even though the influence of drier climates during the Pleistocene seems likely, we would question whether the hylaea vegetation was repeatedly and rapidly restricted to small peripheral islands as suggested by Haffer (1969), Vanzolini and Williams (1970), and Vanzolini (1973). Present data from study of regeneration of tropical rainforests indicate that primary tree species are incapable of recolonizing large areas opened at least to agriculture (Gomez-Pompa, Vasquez-Yanes and Guevara, 1972). Also it appears that the present floras of the Amazonian campos are characterized by non-hylaea species, with little evidence of invasion

of forest species into these habitats. In other words, as suggested by Gomez-Pompa, Vasquez-Pompa, Vasquez-Yanes and Guevara, the reproductive behavior of species which have evolved in the hylaea habitat makes it difficult for them to colonize open areas. They also hypothesize that as a consequence of the low population densities of rainforest species, the gene pool of these species will be greatly restricted unless large tracts of rainforests remain intact. Thus it appears from information about the ecology of rainforest tree species that speciation might be increased in dry-wet contact zones but the maintenance of the integrity of the hylaea ecosystem might demand relatively large areas of hylaea remaining even during dry Pleistocene climatic periods.

More research needs to be done regarding the role of dry environmental conditions in the evolution of hylaea species and vegetation. *Hymenaea* is an excellent example of a genus which probably had its origin and early history in moist rainforest conditions in Africa and South America but then differentiated in response to dry conditions within the hylaea as well as over a wide range of drier habitats both north and south of the hylaea. The evolution of some of the dry-adapted species of *Hymenaea* probably began in the early to middle part of the Tertiary, continued through the drying trends during that Period, and finally could have responded to dry oscillations during the Pleistocene.

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RESUMO

O gênero *Hymenaea*, produtor de resina, tem uma distribuição anfi-atlântica com 13 espécies neotrópicas e 1 africana de ocorrência ao longo de sua costa oriental. A evidência presente sugere uma origem africana do gênero com migração através do Atlântico, ocorrida durante o começo do Terciário, quando os continentes estavam mais próximos e a vegetação de mata pluvial tinha uma dispersão muito maior do que atualmente. O centro de sua distribuição neotrópica é a hiléia amazônica, apesar de o gênero em questão se encontrar em todos os maiores tipos de ecossistema, dentro de sua extensa faixa que vai de 23°N a 28°S. A taxonomia, ecologia, química da resina e estrutura de melhoramento genético das 9 espécies e 8 variedades de *Hymenaeae* das matas pluviais da Amazônia e da historicamente relacionada costa atlântica brasileira são discutidas, como também a evolução possível destas espécies em resposta às postuladas tendências de seca iniciada no Terciário Médio e durante as oscilações de clima seco e úmido do Pleistoceno.

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APPENDIX

Synoptic Key to the *Hylaea* Species of *Hymenaea*

- I. Inflorescence long-paniculate, its branches long, slender, only slightly flexuous; flowers small; ovary mostly pubescent throughout, densely hirsute at the base; fruit ovoid to obovoid, sub-compressed, 1- to few-seeded sect. *Trachylobium*.
- II. Petals densely pilose above; leaflets generally small, 5-8 (12) x 2.5-3.5 (4.5) cm, broadly falcate *H. parvifolia*.
- II. Petals glabrous; leaflets large, 11-15 x 4-6 cm, oblong to falcate *H. oblongifolia*.
- III. Leaflets glabrous on both sides.
 - IV. Leaflets narrowly falcate; petals oblanceolate and subsessile; hypanthium with a stalk-like base, ca. 9 mm long var. *davisii*.
 - IV. Leaflets narrowly or broadly oblong; petals subclawed to distinctly clawed; hypanthium with a stalk-like base, ca. 3 mm long.
 - V. Leaflets narrowly oblong (L/W ca. 2); petals sub-clawed to clawed, the claws to 2 mm long. var. *oblongifolia*.
 - V. Leaflets broadly oblong (L/W ca. 3); petals distinctly clawed, the claws to 8 mm long var. *latifolia*.
 - III. Leaflets densely golden-brown tomentose beneath var. *palustris*.
- I. Young inflorescence short-paniculate, densely corymbose when mature, its branches short, thick, strongly flexuous; flowers large; ovary densely woolly-tomentose to glabrous; fruit obovoid, rhomboidal but mostly cylindrical to oblong, compressed or not, usually manyseeded sect. *Hymenaea*.
- II. Ovary densely pubescent throughout; petals spatulate, distinctly clawed, the claws more than 6 mm long.
 - III. Leaflets obovate, pubescent beneath or occasionally glabrate; ovary moderately hirsute at base; fruit narrowly oblong, subcompressed *H. eriogyne*.
 - III. Leaflets obovate-oblong, densely golden-brown tomentose beneath and sparsely tomentose above; ovary densely woolly-tomentose throughout; fruit broad and flat *H. aurea*.
- II. Ovary glabrous throughout or when young with trace of pubescence at the base; petals ovate, obovate or oblanceolate, not spatulate, sessile to subclawed, the claws less than 2 mm long.
 - III. Ovary borne on a slender stipe, rather small (2 x 2 mm), rhomboidal; fruit ovoid or obovoid, usually rhomboidal at maturity, subcompressed; seeds 1 or 2, rarely more.
 - IV. Leaflets oblong, glabrous or occasionally sparsely puberulent beneath; base straight, not rounded-protracted on the outer side *H. intermedia*.
 - IV. Leaflets obovate, lightly to densely pubescent beneath; base rounded-protracted on the outer side *H. adenotricha*.
 - III. Ovary rigidly stipitate, occasionally subsessile, oblong-oblique (6 x 2.5 mm); fruit oblong to cylindrical, terete to strongly compressed; seeds 3-6 or more.
 - IV. Petals narrow oblanceolate, acute, shortly clawed, the claws ca. 2 mm long; leaflets slightly falcate to oblong, large, 7-18 x 3.5-7 cm.
 - V. Leaflets falcate, glabrous, dull, the veinlets elevated, prominently reticulate; fruit large, rhomboidal-oblong (10-20 x 6-10 x 2.5-3.5 cm), broad, smooth (without evident resinous pockets and lenticels) felt-like *H. reticulada*.
 - V. Leaflets oblong, sparsely pubescent, shining above, densely golden-brown tomentose beneath, the veinlets obscure; fruit small (5-6 x 3 x 1.5-2 cm), oblong, with evident resinous pockets and lenticels, not felt-like *H. rubriflora*.
 - IV. Petals ovate to obovate, sessile to subsessile, rarely clawed; leaflets falcate, small, 4-10 x 2.5-3.5 cm *H. courbaril*.
 - V. Ovary with stipe 4-6 (+) mm long; leaflets broadly falcate, short-acuminate to obtuse, the base nearly straight to rounded on outer side; fruit large and oblong..... var. *courbaril*.
 - V. Ovary subsessile or with stipe ca. 2 mm long; leaflets narrowly falcate short-to long-acuminate, the base straight on the outer side; fruit smaller; cylindrical var. *subsessilis*.