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A NOTE ON FRANCISCODENDRON HYLAND & STEENIS (STERCULIACEAE)

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Franciscodendron Hyland & van Steenis (in Burnonia 10: 211-214. 1987) is, as stated by the authors, related to *Hildegardia* because of its samaralike, indehiscent, one-to two-seed papyraceous (when mature) fruit (differing by the stelate pilose seeds).

The statement that *Pterygota*, (p. 211) should have thick woody indehiscent fruit is wrong; *Pterygota* has early widely dehiscent fruit with numerous, closely packed, samara like seeds, which drop out already on the tree.

The main difference with *Hildegardia* is not stressed by the authors; the former has a tube like corolla, as in *Firmiana*, brightly coloured, whereas the flowers of *Franciscodendron* have 5 valvate free sepals and no corolla; its flowers being exactly like those of *Pterygota*.

It is stated that the flowers are hermaphrodite, but from the drawings I have the impression that the lefthand flower is a female one with 5 free carpels, at the base surrounded by sterile anthers, and this seated on an androgynophore, whereas the righthand flower is a male one with the androgynophore bearing a clump of anthers with (I suspect) the sterile reduced gynacium in between and covered up, or entirely missing.

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