

other view⁸ held that fasciation results from flattening or enlargement of a single growing point. The spiral arrangements of leaves on the flattened stem with different level of fasciations on the branches and inflorescences corroborate with the fusion concept. Further work on its histology will help in predicting its morphological nature. But these induced fasciated inflorescence might throw some light on the evolution of the flat cocks comb type of inflorescence of *Celosia cristata* L., which is now widely cultivated as an ornamental plant in gardens. Hence the present findings on the induced fasciation in *C. argentea* L. supports the previous view that *C. cristata* L. might have occurred spontaneously in nature due to mutation, from *C. argentea*.

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FOSSIL WOODS OF *MILLETTIA* AND *ALBIZZIA* FROM THE TERTIARY BEDS OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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In the present note two fossil woods resembling the modern genus *Millettia* and *Albizzia* are described from the tertiary beds of Labpur, Birbhum District, West Bengal. One of them (Specimen No. P₉₃) shows the following characters:

Wood diffuse porous. Growth rings distinct. Vessels small to large, solitary as well as radial multiples of 2-3 (Fig. 1), t.d. 84-112 μ , r.d. 98-280 μ , vessel segments short, storied. Perforation plate simple with truncate ends; intervessel pits alternate, vested. Parenchyma banded, alternating with concentric fibre bands (Fig. 1); parenchyma strands



FIGS. 1-4. Fig. 1. Cross-section of *Millettioxylon pongamiensis* showing the vessel and parenchyma distribution $\times 15$. Fig. 2. Tangential longitudinal section of *Millettioxylon pongamiensis* showing the homocellular xylem rays $\times 50$. Fig. 3. Cross-section of *Albizzinium eolebbekianum* showing the vessel and parenchyma distribution $\times 15$. Fig. 4. Tangential longitudinal section of *Albizzinium eolebbekianum* showing xylem rays $\times 50$.

storied. Xylem rays fine storied, 1-2 seriate (Fig. 2), homocellular. Fibres libriform, non-septate and thick walled. Ripple marks present. The fossil wood is identical to known species *Millettioxylon pongamiensis* Prakash¹, described from Lower Siwalik beds of Himachal Pradesh. The other species (Specimen No. 165) resembles the modern wood of *Albizzia* and is identical with *Albizzinium eolebbekianum* Prakash¹. It shows the following character: Wood diffuse porous. Growth rings distinct, delimited by terminal parenchyma. Vessels large to medium in size, mostly solitary, sometimes in radial multiples of 2-3 cells (Fig. 3), thin walled, t.d. 93-186 μ and r.d. 133-266 μ ; vessel segments short with truncate ends; perforation plates simple, intervessel-pits vested, alternate. Parenchyma paratracheal and apotracheal, paratracheal parenchyma vasicentric, aliform to aliform confluent (Fig. 3). Xylem rays homocellular, 2-3 cells wide (Fig. 4), and 12-20 cells high. Fibres septate and non-libriform.

Specimen No.—P₉₃ and P₁₆₅, Department of Botany, University of Burdwan, Burdwan, West Bengal.

Locality—Labpur, 16 miles north of Santineketan, Birbhum District, West Bengal, India.

Age—Miocene.

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