

PINACEAE

Chamlong Phengkhai*

A family with only 10 genera, widespread in the Northern Hemisphere and not frequent in the tropics, is characteristic by its needle-like leaves and more or less woody cones.

The family is represented in Thailand by one genus and 2 species.

PINUS (Tourn.) Linn., Syst. ed. i : 1735.

Evergreen monoecious tree; twigs woody in the second year, wood with resin. Leaves spirally arranged on the twigs, 2–3–5 in a fascicle, needle-like with characteristic resin canals, margin minutely serrate. Cone woody with persistent scales. Seeds 2 to each scale, winged.

KEY TO SPECIES

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| 1. Leaves two in a fascicle; cone ovate after anthesis. fissured | Bark blackish, deeply 1. <i>P. merkusii</i> |
| 1. Leaves three in a fascicle; cone rhomboid after anthesis. reticulately cracked | Bark pinkish brown, 2. <i>P. kesiya</i> |

1. *Pinus merkusii* Jungh. & De Vriese

This Thai species of true pines was recently treated by Cooling and Gaussen in their paper, *Pinus merkusiana* sp. nov. et non *P. merkusii* Jungh. et De Vriese in Trav. Lab. For. Toul. 1.8.7 : 1–8. 1970 as *P. merkusiana*, on the account that the species on main land is quite different from the species in Sumatra but the name was illegitimate, no holotype being cited. As the Thai species seems to refer only to a form, hence the name should be discarded (Van Steenis in Fl. Mal. Bull. 25 : 1948. 1971). — Fig. 1

Thailand.—NORTHERN, NORTH-EASTERN and EASTERN.

Distribution.— India, Burma, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sumatra (Type), Philippines and Thailand.

Ecology.— In the dry deciduous dipterocarps, lower montane and coniferous forests; at 600–1300 m altitudes.

Vernacular.— Son hang ma สอนหางมา, Son khao สอนเขา, Son song bai สอนสองใบ (Thai); Kia pluak dam เกียะเปลือกดำ, Kia pluak na เกียะเปลือกหนา (Northern);

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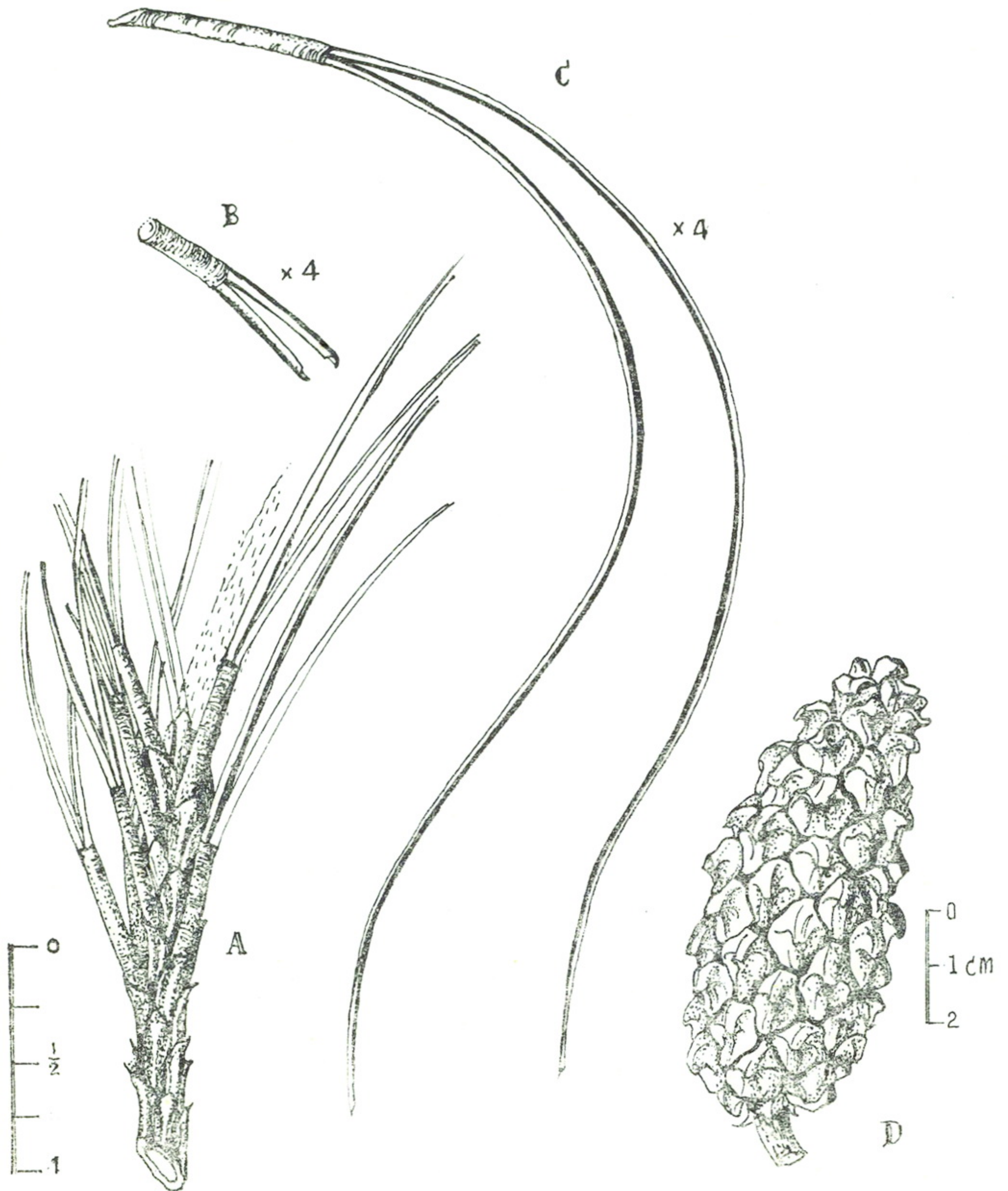


Fig. 1 *Pinus merkusii* Jungh. & De Vriese A. Habit x 4 B. & C. the bundle of leaves x 4 D. cone x 1 (S. Phusomsaeng 50)

Chuang จ้าง (Northeastern); Mai tai ไม้ไต้ (Ubon); Cho ไช (Karen-Chiang Mai); Sa-ron สรรณ (Surin); Paek แปก (Loei); Chiang sao เข็มงา (Karen-Mae Hong Son).

2. *Pinus kesiya* Royle ex Gord.

It is apparent that *P. insularis* Endl., *P. khasya* Royle and *P. kesiya* Royle ex Gord. are the same; as the name *P. kesiya* having the antecedent, therefore it is herewith retained.—**Fig. 2**

Thailand.— NORTHERN and NORTH-EASTERN.

Distribution.— India, Burma (Type), Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Philippines.

Ecology.— In the lower montane and coniferous forest; at 1000–1600 m altitudes.

Vernacular.— Son khao สนมเขา, Son sam bai สนมสามใบ (Thai); Kia pluak daeng เกียะเปลือกแดง, Kia pluak bang เกียะเปลือกบาง (Northern); Chuang จ้าง (Northeastern).

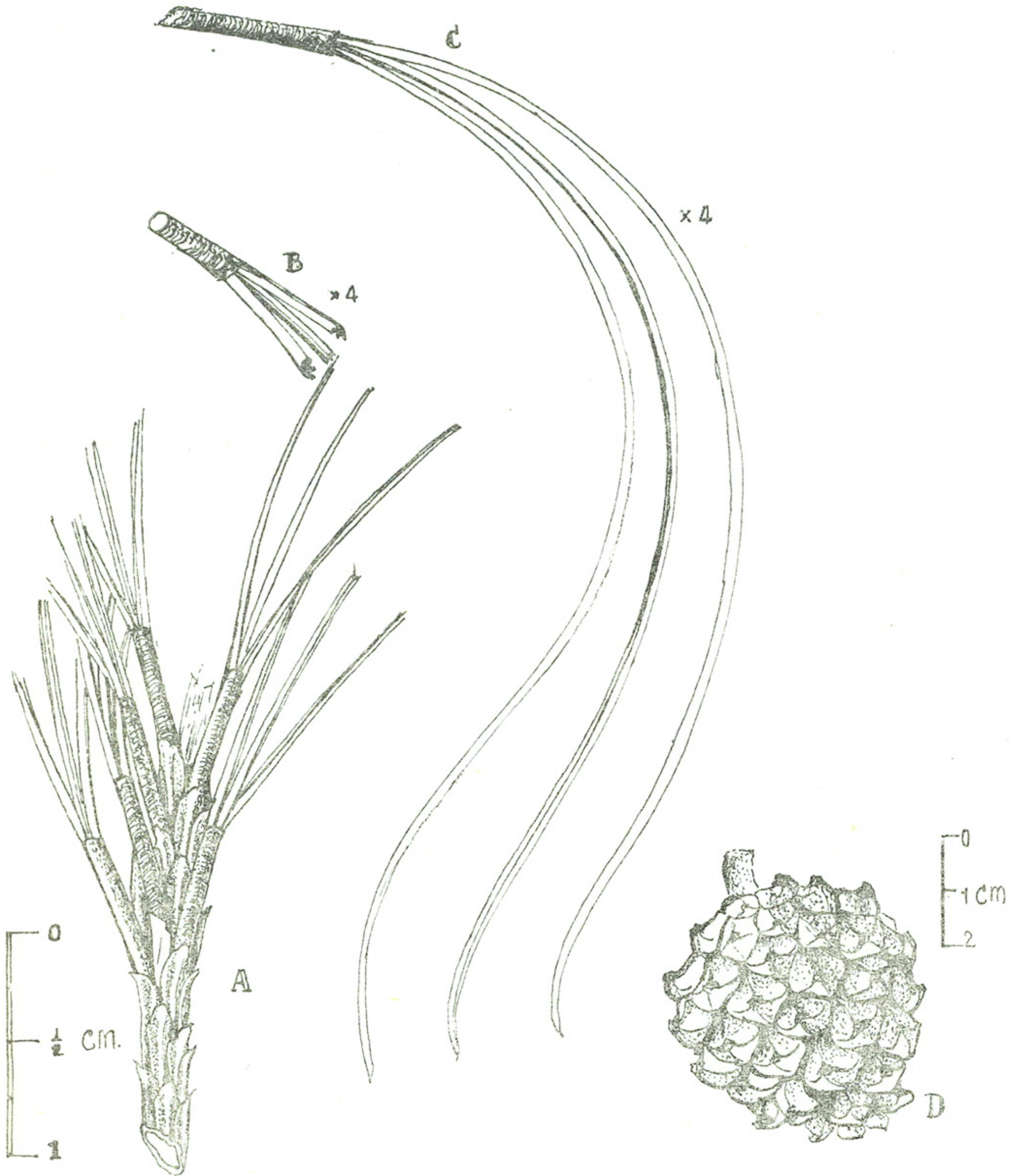


Fig. 2 *Pinus kesiya* Royle ex Gord. A. Habit x4 B. & C. the bundle of leaves x 4 D. Cone x 1 (T. Smitinand 1881)