

# 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

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

### 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 สนหงหมา, Son khao สนເຂ, Son song bai សនសອງបី (Thai); Kia pluak dam ເກີບເປົລືອກດຳ, Kia pluak na ເກີບເປົລືອກນາ (Northern);

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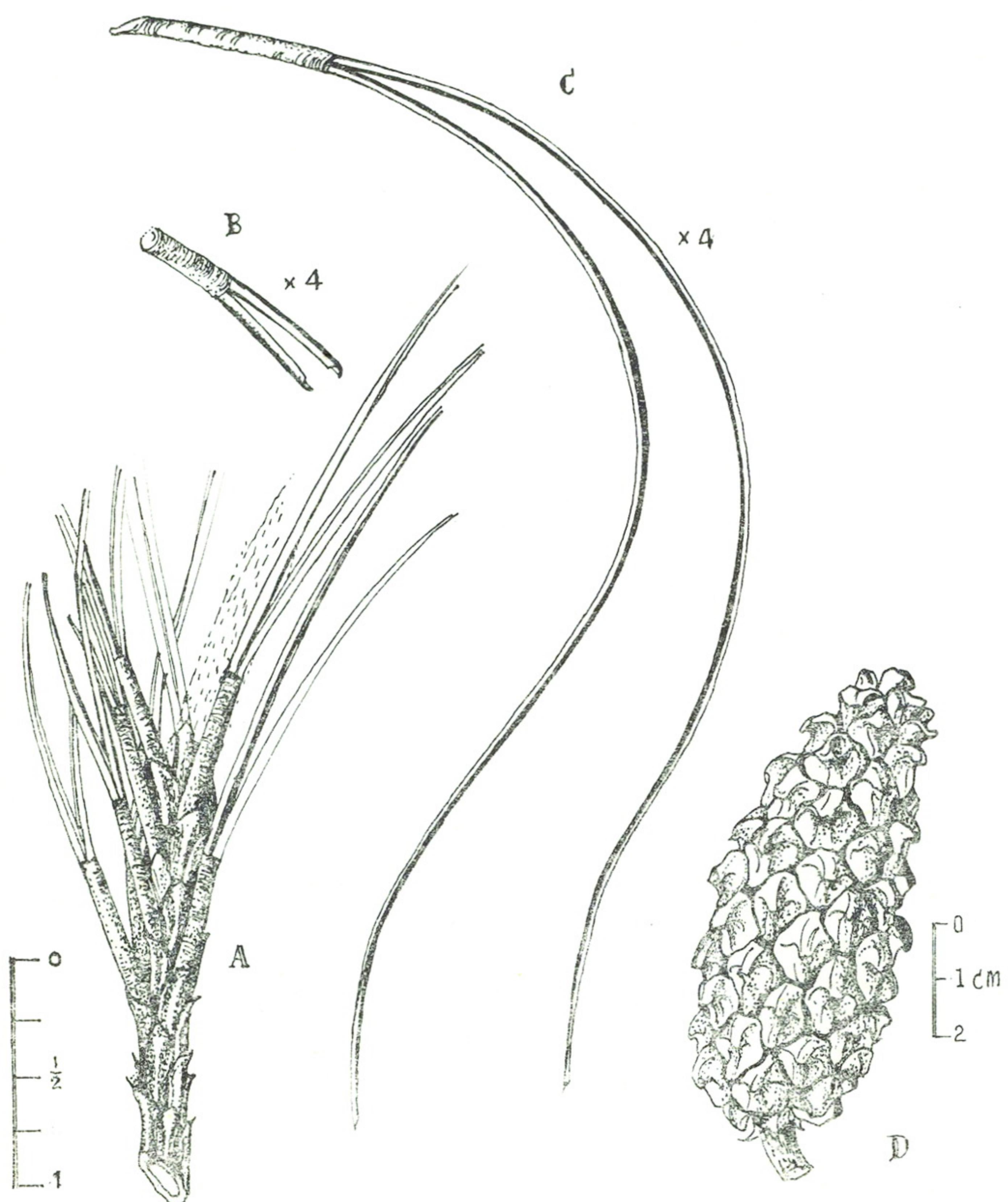


Fig. 1 *Pinus merkusii* Jungh. & De Vriese A. Habit x 4 B. & C. the bundle of leaves x 4 D. cone x 1 (S. Phusomsaeng 50)

Chuang ຈົວ (Northeastern); Mai tai ໄມໄຕ (Ubon); Cho ໄຊ (Karen-Chiang Mai); Sa-ron ສະຮອນ (Surin); Paek ແປກ (Loei); Chiang sao ເຊຍແຫວ (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 ສົນເຂາ, Son sam bai ສົນສາມບັບ (Thai); Kia pluak daeng ເກີບເປົ້ອກແດງ, Kia pluak bang ເກີບເປົ້ອກບາງ (Northern); Chuang ຈົວ (Northeastern).

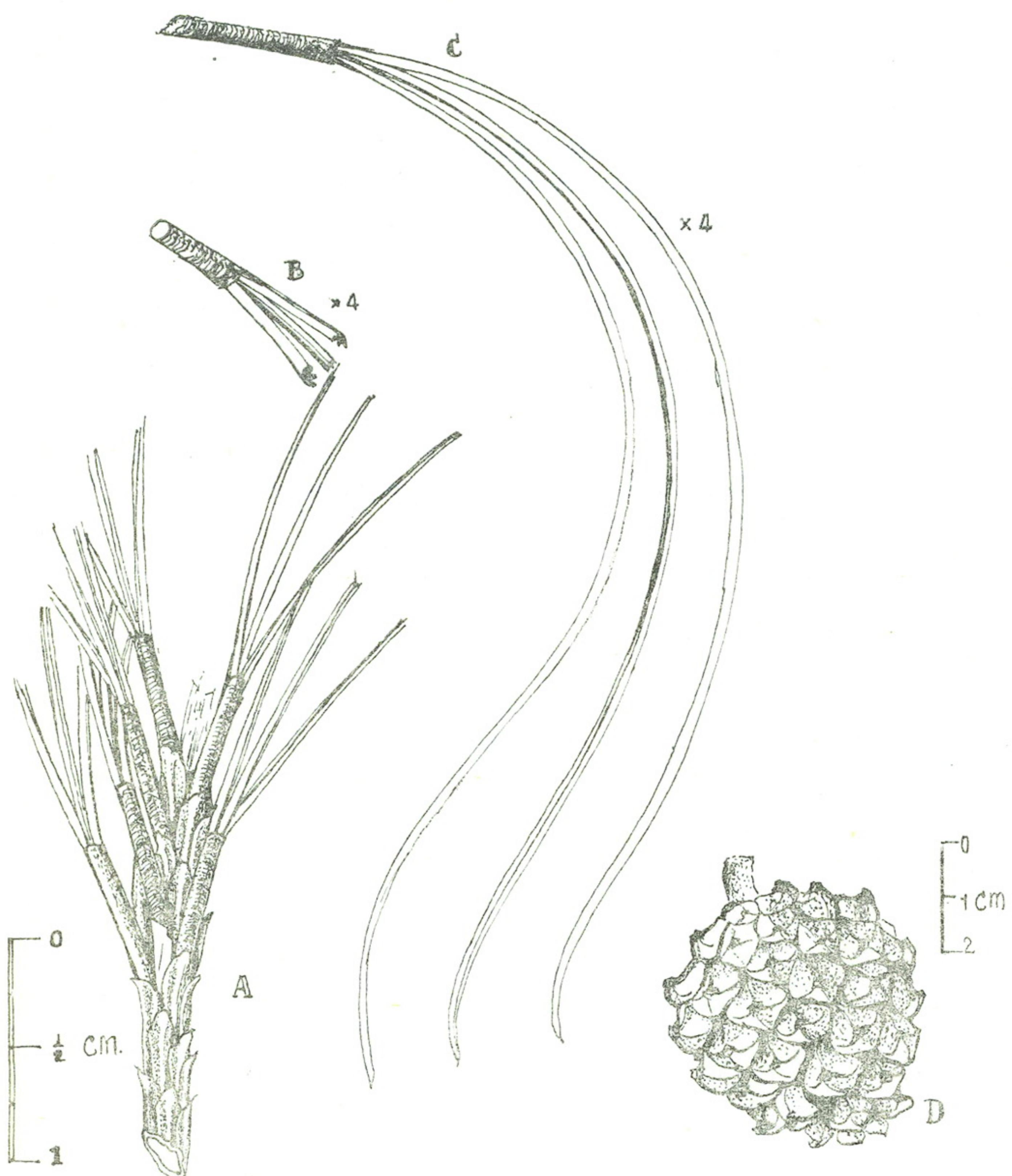


Fig. 2 *Pinus kesiya* Royle ex Gord. A. Habit x4 B. & C. the bundle of leaves x 4  
D. Cone x 1 (T. Smitinand 1881)