J Wood Sci (2008) 54:520
DOI 10.1007/s10086-008-0991-3

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Horizontal resin canals of *Shorea* spp.

Received: July 30, 2008 / Published online: October 24, 2008

The genus *Shorea* (Dipterocarpaceae) is divided into four sections, *Anthoshorea* (white meranti), *Richetioides* (yellow meranti), *Rubroshorea* (red meranti), and *Shorea* (selangan batu), from plant taxonomy. These sections can be distinguished from wood anatomical characteristics.[1–4]

In the article titled "Anatomical characterization of decayed wood in standing light red meranti and identification of the fungi isolated from the decayed area" by Erwin et al. [J Wood Sci (2008) 53:233–241], the authors state that they cut a tree of *Shorea smithiana* as the material. *Shorea smithiana* belongs to the section *Rubroshorea*, which is generally called red meranti in Malaysia and Indonesia. The wood of the section *Rubroshorea* generally lacks silica grains, lacks crystals in long-chambered axial parenchyma, sometimes has crystals in idioblasts, and usually lacks horizontal resin canals except for three species, *Shorea leprosula*, *S. ovata*, and *S. teysmaniana*. Horizontal resin canals of these three species have larger diameters and thinner-walled epithelial cells than those of the section *Richetioides* (yellow meranti), which always has horizontal resin canals. In the ray shown in Fig. 5 on page 236 of the article, however, a horizontal resin canal with a small diameter and thick-walled epithelial cells are clearly visible. Moreover, we could not find any horizontal resin canals in the 11 samples of *Shorea smithiana* deposited in the xylarium of the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (TWTw).

Thus, we are doubtful of the identification of the material tree described in this article. We recommend that the authors re-identify the material tree. We believe the material tree should be identified as *Shorea* section *Richetioides* sp.; thus, the article title should be modified to "Anatomical characterization of decayed wood in standing yellow meranti and identification of the fungi isolated from the decayed area."

References

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