

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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## Response to the Letter to the Editor “Horizontal resin canals of *Shorea* spp.”

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Dear Editor,

We thank Drs. Hisashi Abe and Tomoyuki Fujii for their comments in their Letter to the Editor about our paper entitled “Anatomical characterization of decayed wood in standing light red meranti and identification of the fungi isolated from the decayed area,” published in J Wood Sci (2008) 54:233–241. The authors of the letter drew attention to the incorrect identification of meranti wood species described in the paper.

In our study, microscope slides were prepared from a 45-year-old *Shorea smithiana* tree, a member of the light red meranti group, growing in a natural dipterocarp stand at the Bukit Soeharto Educational Forest of Mulawarman University, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The scientific identity was confirmed from the characteristics of the tree in the native stand. During microscope slide preparation, slides of *Shorea gibbosa*, a member of the yellow meranti, were, however, mistaken for slides of *Shorea smithiana*; anatomical studies of the canker wood of *Shorea gibbosa* were then conducted alongside those of *Shorea smithiana*. We concede that the authors of the letter are entirely correct, and that Figs. 5 and 8 were prepared from slides of *Shorea gibbosa*, not *Shorea smithiana*.

We sincerely appreciate the interest and comments of Drs. Abe and Fujii, correctly identifying the wood species in the figures. Based on their suggestions, we would like to replace Figs. 5 and 8 with the correct figures, in an erratum to be published in the journal. However, the characteristics

of cell wall degradation described in the paper were mostly the same for *Shorea smithiana* and *Shorea gibbosa*, and therefore nothing else in the paper needs to be changed. Fiber degradation was frequently observed in the regions where ray parenchyma cells were in contact with degraded fibers (Fig. 5, below). After double staining with safranin fast-green, light microscopy revealed that the middle lamella and cell corners with residual lignin were stained red, whereas the remaining fiber and axial parenchyma cell walls were mainly stained green, possibly owing to the abundance of cellulose and hemicelluloses (Fig. 8, below).

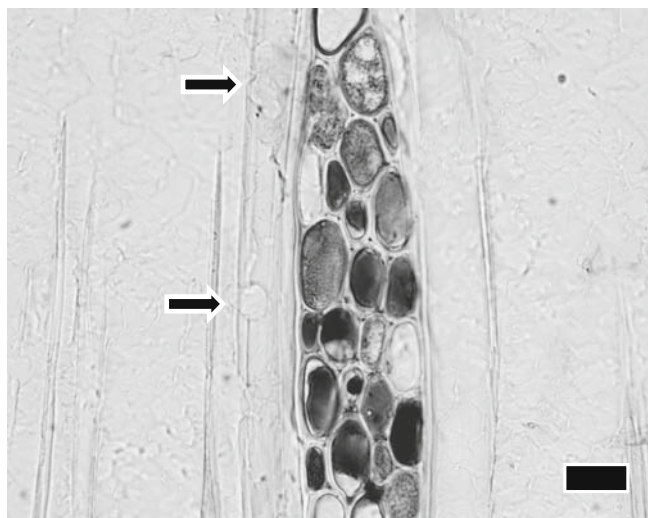
We sincerely apologize to the editorial board, members of the society, and all readers for our unintentional error in the paper.

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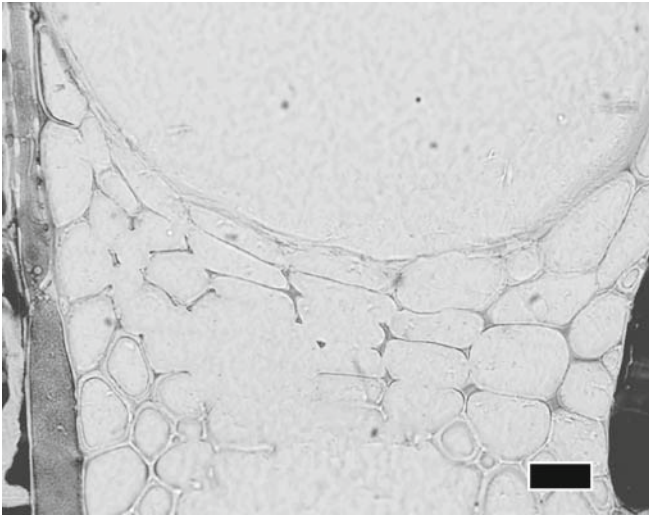
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**Fig. 5.** Erosion channels with U-notches in fiber cell wall (arrows). Bar 20  $\mu$ m



**Fig. 8.** Lignin remained in the cell corners and middle lamella, which were stained red by double staining with safranin-fast green at a progressive stage of decay. *Bar* 20  $\mu\text{m}$

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## Errata

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Micromorphology of abnormal and decayed xylem in rubberwood canker

p 414 left column, l 3, peach → patch  
p 414 right column, l 7, peach → patch  
p 419 left column, l 21, peach → patch