

Albizia amara
(FABACEAE)

NOMENCLATURE: IDENTIFICATION:

Accepted Name: Albizia amara (Roxb.) Boiv.
 subsp. amara Brenan
 subsp. sericocephala (Benth.) Brenan

Approved by: GMC

References: See Bibliography*

Synonyms: Mimosa amara (Roxb.) Boiv.
Albizia gracilifolia Harms
A. sericocephala Benth.
A. struthiophylla Milne-Redh.

Identification:

FRACTIONATOR:

Farnsworth

DESCRIPTION: Tree, rarely shrubby, 1.5-18 m. high, deciduous; crown rounded or flat; bark fissured, rough; young branchlets with rather short dense spreading grey to golden pubescence. Leaves: gland on upper side of petiole low, sessile, up to c. 0.25 mm. high; pinnae 4-46(56) pairs; leaflets 12-48 pairs, 2-5(7.5) X 0.5-1.5(2.5) mm., oblong-linear to linear, symmetric and obtuse or sometimes subacute at the apex, ± appressed-pubescent on one or both surfaces or on the margins only, glabrescent or not later; midrib nearly central (except at the base); lateral nerves not distinct beneath, rarely slightly raised. Flowers white or flushed-pink, subsessile or up to 1.5 mm. pedicellate; bracteoles very caducous, fallen by flowering time. Calyx 1-2 mm. long, puberulous or pubescent outside. Corolla 3.5-7 mm. long, puberulous or pubescent outside. Staminal tube not or scarcely exerted beyond the corolla; filaments c. 0.5-1.2 cm. long. Pod apparently indehiscent, 10-28 X 2-5 cm., linear-oblong, puberulous over the surface, brown. Seeds 8-13 X 7-8 mm., flattened.

ECOLOGY: Wooded grasslands, thickets and scrub, often on or near rock; 600-1500 meters. Usually occurring in small clumps.

COMMENTS: Subspecies "amara" has usually 4-12 pairs of leaflets that are ± glaucous beneath. Subspecies "sericocephala" has from 14-46 pairs of leaflets which are green and not glaucous beneath.

USES: The seeds are astringent. Used in treating piles, diarrhoea, gonorrhoea, leprosy, leucoderma, erysepelas and abscesses. The flowers have been applied to boils, eruptions and swellings. Also, regarded as an emetic and as a remedy for coughs and malaria.

ACTIVITY DATA IN Albizia:

A. adianthifolia	WA	C	Jordaan
A. adinocephala	WA	DM	Cole
A. amara	KB, PS	C	Farnsworth
A. grandibracteata	KB	C	Cole
A. julibrissin	WA, SA	DM	Cole
A. kalkora	WA		Cole
A. procera	WA	DM	

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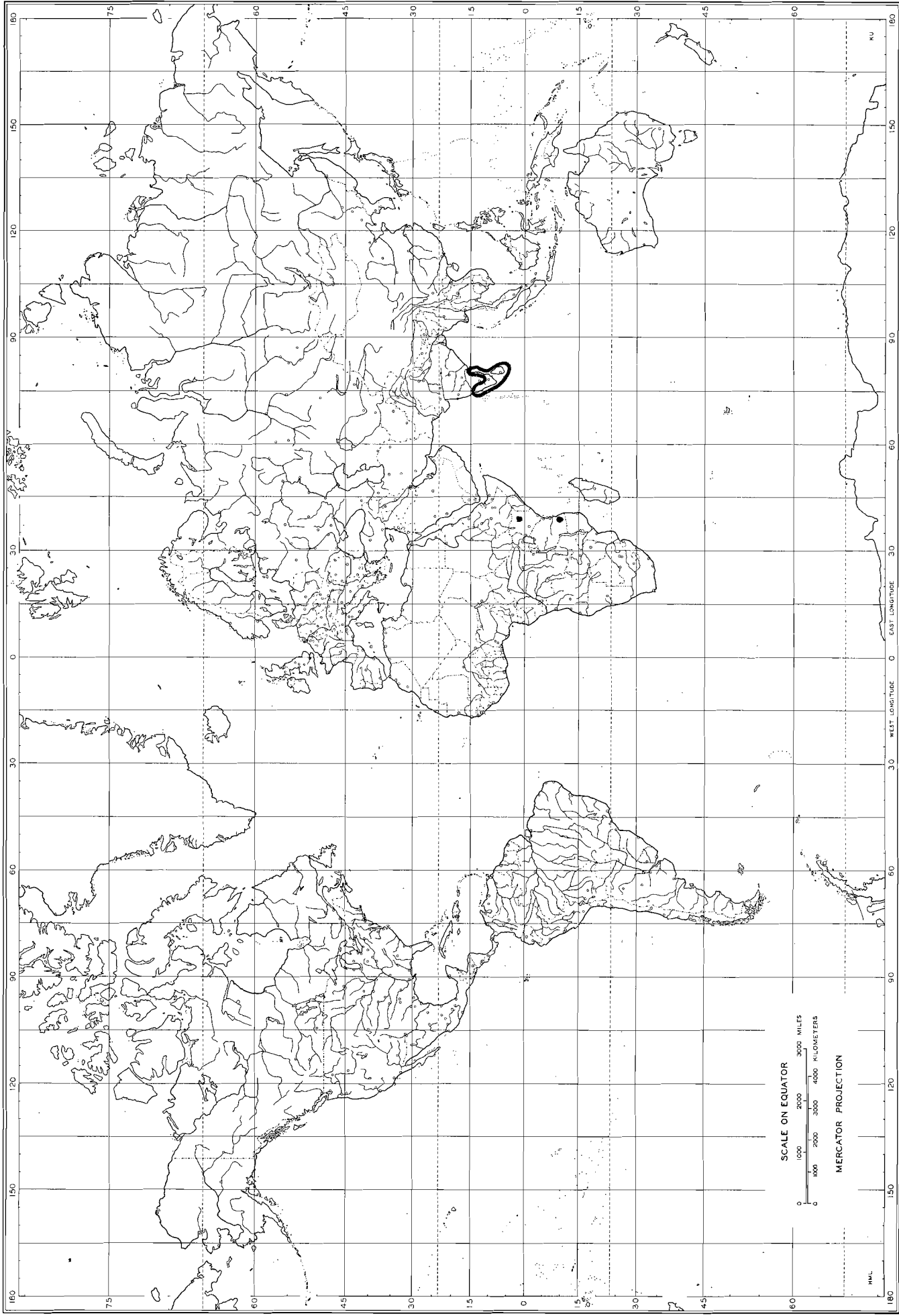
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WORLD MERCATOR

No. 1M



Prepared by Henry M. Leppard
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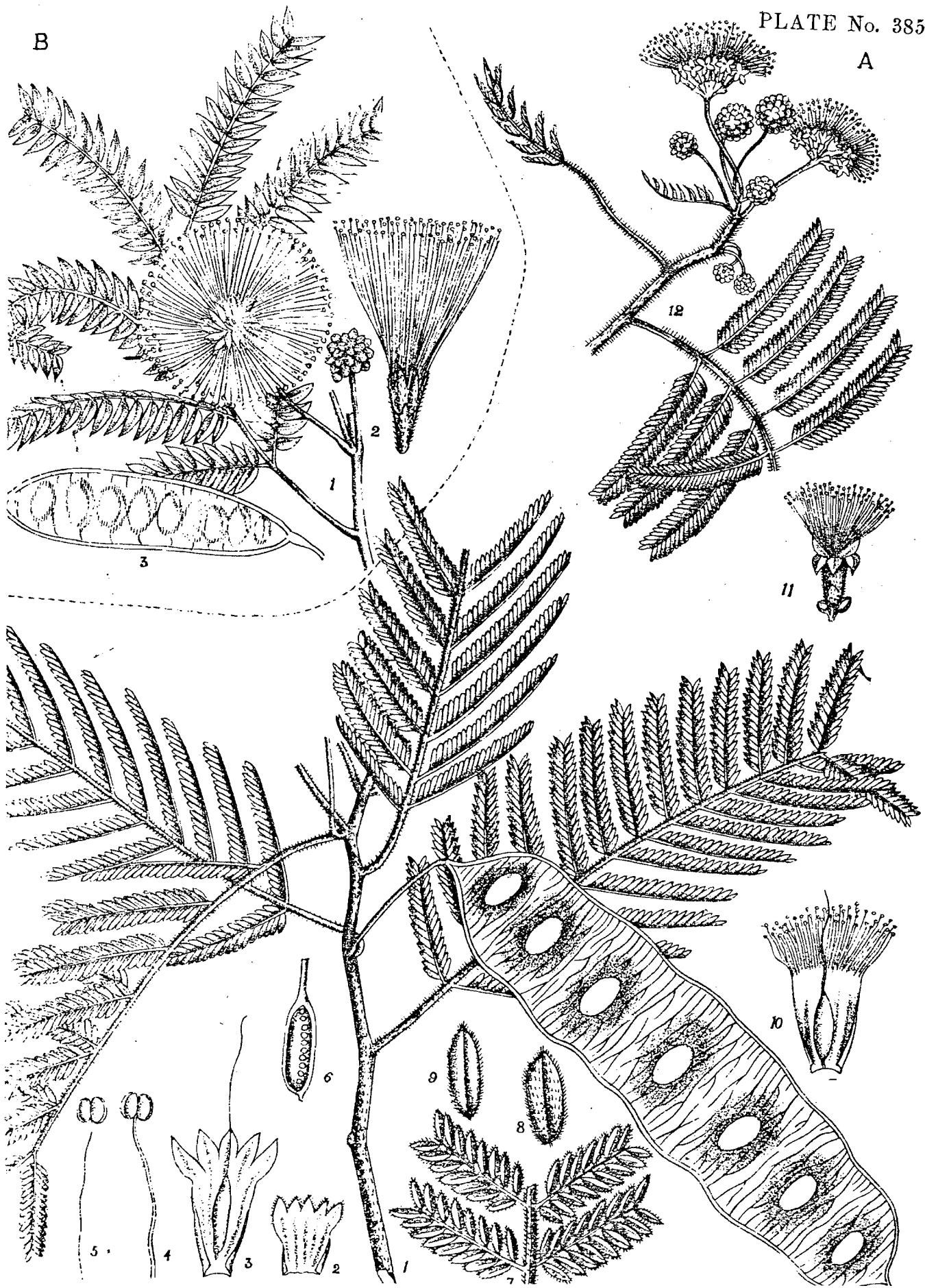
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Albizia amara subsp. *seriocephala*



CLASS _____

NAME _____



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