

PART IV

Investigation on the neutral part of the benzene extract and the benzene insoluble part of Sapium baccatum Roxb. and elucidation of the partial structure of a new nor-triterpene alcohol.

PART IV

CHAPTER I

Morphological features of sapium species (Euphorbiaceae) and

Sapium baccatum Roxb

Sanium P. Br.^{1a}

Sapium species are usually trees or shrubs. Leaves alternate, entire, serrate or toothed, penninerved; petiole often 2-glandular at the top. Flowers in terminal simple or paniced spikes or racemes, monocious, apetalous, moles several in each bract, female in the lower part of the spikes, or in separate spikes, solitary in the bracts. Calyx membranous, shortly 2-3 lobed or toothed, or split to the base into 2-3 valvate sepals. Stamens 2-3, filaments free, another cells ovoid, distinct, contiguous, parallel. Calyx 2-fid or - partite. Ovary 2-3 celled; styles free or connate at the base spreading and recurved, undivided, cells 1-ovuled. Capsule crustaceous, fleshy or puopy, rarely woody, at length loculicidally (not elastically) 3-valved, globose, estrophiolate, usually long persistent on the columella, tests crustaceous, albumen fleshy; cotyledons broad, flat. Twentyfive species, all tropical have been identified.

Sapium baccatum Roxb., which is called Ankhaterua by Nepalese, Rangore-phong by Rabha is a handsome, straight deciduous tree occurring here and there in Sal Forest and mixed forest^{1b,1c}. It flowers in April and May. The plant is cultivated in various parts

of India and elsewhere in warm countries. In Bengal it is available in Terai Hills and Plains^{1b}. Branches of the tree are glaucous, leaves long - petioled 3-8 in., tips very slender; nerves 6-10 pair, very slender; petiole 1-3 in., Racemes 3-4 in., in a spreading panicle, very slender, bracts very short. Male Flower 1/60 in. diam., pedicels capillary 1/16 in., stamens 2, included. Fem. fl. subsessile; style very short; stigmas revolute. Fruit 1/3 - 1/2 in., diam.