



## Reestablishment of *Hymenaea travassii* (Leguminosae, Caesalpinioideae), a species endemic to the Bolivian Chaco

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### Abstract

In Lee & Langenheim's taxonomic revision of the genus *Hymenaea* (Leguminosae, Caesalpinioideae), the species *Hymenaea travassii* was considered a species of dubious status. A detailed analysis of the type material and additional specimens, clearly indicates, however, that this is a distinct species, endemic to the Bolivian "chaco". The species can be distinguished by a combination of its habit, the texture of the bark and the shape and size of its leaflets. This study proposes the reestablishment of *Hymenaea travassii* as a distinct species, based on morphology. A species description, a key to distinguish *Hymenaea travassii* from related species, and a summary of its geographical distribution are presented, together with an illustration.

### Introduction

*Hymenaea* Linnaeus (1753: 1192) belongs to the tribe Detarieae de Candolle (1825: 521) of the family Leguminosae Jussieu (1789: 345) and comprises about 14 species (sensu Lee & Langenheim 1975, Mackinder 2005) or 16 species (sensu Souza *et al.* 2014). The genus occurs in South America with the exception of *H. torrei* León (1949: 4) and *H. verrucosa* Gaertner (1791: 306) which are restricted to Cuba, and East Africa, or Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands respectively (Lee & Langenheim 1975). *Hymenaea* species are usually trees, with bifoliolate leaves, terminal corymbiform (rarely paniculiform) inflorescences, a tetramerous calyx, a pentamerous corolla, ten stamens, a glabrous or pubescent ovary and a hard, indehiscent fruit with a farinaceous endocarp.

*Hymenaea travassii* Kuhlmann ex Paes (1971: 1) is based on the annotations by J.G. Kuhlmann included on the label of material collected in the Tuname region in eastern Bolivia. Paes (1971) presented a Latin diagnosis but did not discuss the taxon's relationships to other species. Lee & Langenheim (1975) considered *H. travassii* as a species of dubious status and suggested that it is sufficiently morphologically similar to *H. courbaril* Linnaeus (1753: 1192) to not merit separate species recognition. Their conclusion resulted largely from the absence of herbarium collections including the type collection at the time of their study. Specimens of the species have been identified as *H. stigonocarpa* Martius ex Hayne (1830: 13) in several herbaria, due to the morphological similarity of the two species. The aim of this paper is to clarify the taxonomic status of *Hymenaea travassii*; is it a synonym of *H. courbaril*, of *H. stigonocarpa* or is it an independent species worthy of reinstatement?

### Materials and Methods

This study was based on the morphological analysis of the type specimens of all taxa involved together with additional material deposited at HUEFS, K and RB (acronyms according to Thiers 2015).