THE POLLEN CONE OF FALCATIFOLIUM PAPUANUM DE LAUBENFELS (TAXACEAE)

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Recent collections in New Guinea (Havel and Kairo NGF 17342) have brought to light the hitherto unknown pollen cone of Falcatifolium papuanum de Laubenfels (J. Arnold Arb. 50, 1969, 312). These cones are of interest because of their small size, particularly compared to the other species of the genus where the pollen cone usually reaches several centimetres in length.

The fully mature cone of F. papuanum is c. 5 mm long and 2 mm in diameter. It appears both in terminal and lateral positions; when terminal it is subtended by a few sterile scales, when lateral by a larger number.

The microsporophyll is acuminate and about I mm long, widening abruptly on each side to a globular pollen sac.