CHAPTER II

PLANT MATERIAL

Aglaia pirifera Hance (Syn. *A. oblonga* Pierre , *Milnea pirifera* Pierre). The plant has been described by F. Pellegrin (88) as follows :

A moderate tree, trunk diameter 30 to 40 cm, young branch hairy, leaves alternate, 20 to 30 cm in length. Its leaves are imparipinnate with 7 to 9 oblong, apex acuminate, base acute, coriaceous leaflets, mostly 14 to 16 cm in length and 4 to 5 cm in width, alternate or subopposite, and hairy on the lower surface. Petiolule 6 mm long and canaliculate on the upper suface. The midrib and principal veins are prominent at lower surface. There are 9 to 14 principal veins, alternate or subopposite, on each side of midrib. Inflorescence is in axillary panicles, flower minute and globulate. Its fruit is pear shape, 22 mm in diameter, pericarp thick and hairy Ovules 3, axile placentation and cover with a thin layer of aril. Cotyledon compressed with copious endosperm.

The plant materials (stem bark) used in this study were obtained from Phanat Nikhon, Chonburi province, Thailand. It was identified to be *Aglaia pirifera* Hance, family Meliaceae by comparison with voucher specimens at the Botany section, Technical Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operative, Thailand.

The stem bark was dried in a hot air oven at low temperature (40-50°C) and ground to coarse powder in the Retsch KG type SK_1 mill.