

DOES *SCALESIA HELLERI* OCCUR ON SOUTH ISABELA?

by

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Scalesia helleri Robins. is known from Santa Fe (Barrington) and southern Santa Cruz, on both islands preponderantly inhabiting steep coastal cliffs. Some years ago, Dr. Henk van der Werff drew my attention to two sheets of *S. helleri* in the U.S. Nat. Herbarium in Washington. These specimens were assumed to have been collected on south Isabela (Albemarle). Through the courtesy of the Director of the Herbarium, I was allowed to borrow them for examination. They were found to represent *S. helleri* typical of specimens collected on Santa Fe and in some places on Santa Cruz. The information on the labels is as follows:

Scalesia helleri Robins., Albemarle Island, coast west of Villamil, June 6, 1960, Coll. Raymond Lévêque, Nos. 92, 109 (U.S. Nat. Herb., Nos. 2826939, 2826940).

I sent a letter to Dr. Lévêque, suggesting that the specimens might have been mislabeled and in reality had been taken on Santa Fe. The following is an excerpt from his reply of 7 February 1978:

"I have checked my diary and find that on 4th of June 1960 (not 6th) I was indeed at Villamil, Albemarle, in company of Jacob Lundh. We walked 3 hours west of Villamil, along the coast, along some ponds where we looked for flamingoes etc., and reached a place called Baraona, 2 lagoons after a small coastal hill. Where exactly the *Scalesia helleri* was taken I cannot now remember, if at all, and I never made a list of the plants I collected. ... Another thing: although I went twice to Barrington at least, for short trips, I almost surely did not collect *S. helleri* there ..."

Although I regard occurrence of *S. helleri* on south Isabela as unlikely, I would like to ask scientists and others visiting the actual area, kindly to watch for any *Scalesia* with lobed leaves. I do not think it will be found. If I am wrong, the record would be extremely interesting, and I would be grateful for all information.



Known range of *Scalesia helleri* (within dotted line). The arrow points at the approximate location, where the species is said to have been found on Isabela.