

FLORA OF BRAZIL

Laur.

State of Mato Grosso do Sul

No. R7517

*Mezilaurus* sp. nov.

~~det. H. van der Werff~~ v. 1997

Close to the entrance of Fazenda Sonho Lindo, 26km from Cipolândia on the road to Aquiduaana, 20° 12'S 55° 53'W.

Remnant tree in pasture cleared from mesophytic forest.

Robust tree, 16m tall, 80cm dbh. Bark grey, thick, vertically fissured rather like an oak tree (*Quercus robur/petraea*). Wood so hard that the tree has been left standing although attempts have been made to fell it with a chain-saw. Ripe fruits oily black with marzipan brown flesh which has a pleasant taste resembling a cross between fig and avocado (with a touch of the tastes of medlar and genipapo), being eaten by a toco toucan. Tree climbed by Sam Bridgewater - very difficult with such a thick trunk.

24 ix 1996

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