IPS INTERNATIONAL Palm Society

NOVEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER

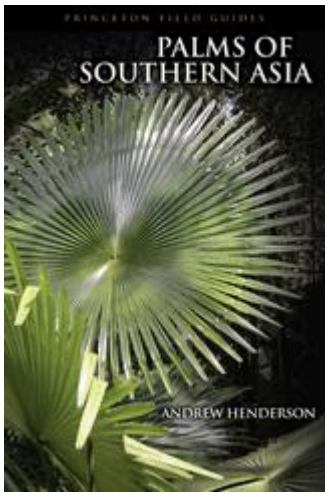
Dr. Andrew Henderson, Recipient of Multiple IPS Grants

from Cindy Adair

Each year, the IPS considers applications for grants from the IPS Endowment Fund. Dr. Andrew Henderson, Curator, Institute of Systematic Botany at New York Botanical Garden, has received six grants from the IPS over the last eleven years.

Grants in 2003 and 2005 were given toward preparation of *A Field Guide to the Palms of Southern Asia*, (pictured above right). In 2007 Dr. Henderson was awarded a grant for the project "The Rattans (Palmae) of Myanmar: Conservation, Systematics, and Sustainable Use".

"This project, to be carried out in collaboration with Dr. Charles Peters, was originally planned for Myanmar. However, we were unable to obtain visas for this research. With IPS permission, this work was carried out in Vietnam, beginning in February 2009. ... two papers were published as a result of this research."



Above, cover of *A Field Guide to Palms of Southern Asia,* Below, *Calamus palustris,* in Cambodia; photo, Dr. Andrew Henderson

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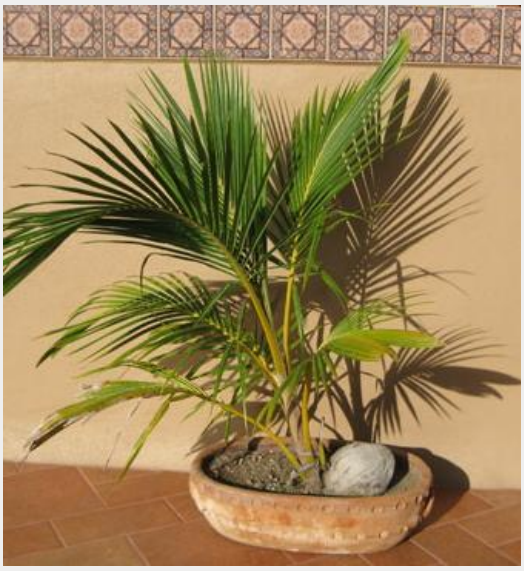
info@palms.org.

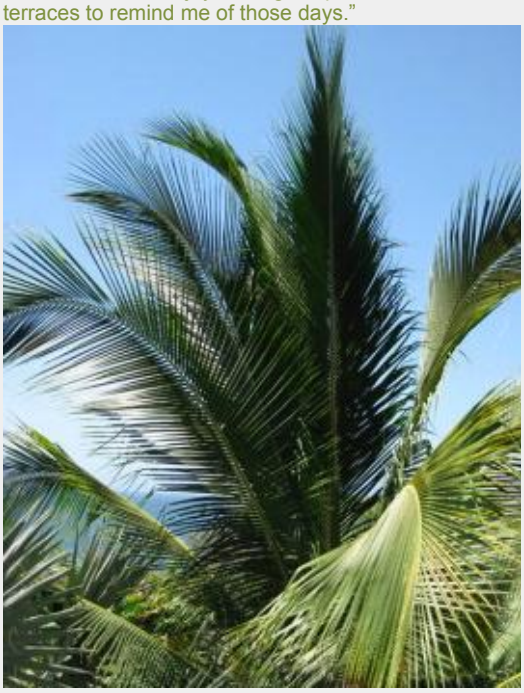
Later awards include a 2009 grant for the project “Completion of a revision of *Geonoma*, and preparation of an illustrated Guide to the Palms of Rio de Janeiro region”, resulting in two published papers. 2011 brought a grant for the project “A revision of *Rhapis* (Palmae) based on morphological and molecular data”, with Dr. Christine Bacon.

“The IPS grants have been extremely important to my research over the last few years, and I am grateful for the support from IPS.”

Right, *Calamus palustris*, photograph provided by Dr. Andrew Henderson



"As the originator (quite a few years ago) of "Coconut Post" – the mailing of bare (or branded) coconuts from Hawaii – I enjoy having a sprout on one of the terraces to remind me of those days."



Tommy Clarkson, IPS member and owner of *Ola Brisa Gardens* in Manzanillo, Mexico, was asked to share his gardening experiences with readers. As a longtime writer of a weekly tropical plants column, he offered articles from his existing web site, beginning with this sample. You are sure to enjoy his enthusiasm and humor. Read on!

Cocos nucifera

by Tommy Clarkson

Coconut Palm, Cocos nucifera
Family: Arecaceae
Sub-family: Arecoideae
(Also known as the Coco Palm, Coconut Tree)

There are around 3,000 different varieties of palms; when people think of them, the coconut is the species that generally first comes to mind. The most ubiquitous of all palms, the coconut is found in more geographically diverse locales than any other palm tree in the world. There are tall, mid-sized and dwarf varieties, with numerous hybrids.

Coconuts, Kauai, by Christopher Becker Click to view larger

While fossilized coconuts have been dug up in New Zealand, it is known that the palm has been cultivated for over 4,000 years in India. Accordingly, botanists surmise that the species originated in the Indian Ocean area. Appropriately, it has often been called the "Tree of Life" or the "Tree of a Thousand Uses" what with its ability to provide virtually everything required for human survival. (OK, OK, I admit you cannot watch NFL games on it . . . but almost everything else!)

It is said that initially this plant was named nux indica by Marco Polo in 1280. However, it is believed to have received its contemporary name from the Spanish and Portuguese explorers who thought that the brown, hairy and three "eyed" face of the coconut looked like a monkey or the witch Coco. The word "nut" was added when they were introduced in England. *Source*

Actually, the coconut isn't really a nut at all. It's a fruit called a drupe, a fruit with an outer fleshy part surrounding a shell of hardened endocarp with a seed inside. In the "interesting to know" category, coffee, dates, mangos, cherries, peaches, plums,

Coconut photos by Tommy Clarkson

apricots, and nectarines are other drupes, though the coconut is distinguished as a highly modified dry drupe.

Virtually every part of the coconut palm can be used in some manner – meaningful or frivolous. Beyond the hundreds of culinary and non-culinary uses of the coconut meat and its milk/juice, a few more are as follows: Husks and shells can be used as potting compost (better than peat moss), mattress stuffing, fuel, source of charcoal, brushes, dish or body sponge, floor buffers, as a soup dish, and fixed with a handle to be used as a ladle. Its activated carbon effectively absorbs gas and vapor and removes impurities or odor.

They have been used for creating the sound of horse hoof beats in the theatre, incorporated as the body for musical instruments, carved into shirt buttons, burnt as a mosquito repellant, stuffed in automobile arm rests, head rests and visors and – in the absence of paper – a husked coconut shell (now in the JFK Library) was the communication vehicle by which the crew of PT Boat 109 (delivered by dugout canoe) communicated their rather dire situation and location.

Trunks are used in the building of small bridges, walls, and roofs, found to be an ecologically sound substitute for much scarcer hardwoods, hollowed to make drums, containers and even canoes.

Fronds – beyond use as brooms, cooking skewers, kindling, arrows, woven into baskets or hats – and in the Solomon Islands, purportedly, sometimes used in the administration of corporal punishment – burnt for ash and then harvested for lime, they have been used as roofing around the world.

Roots can be used as a dye, mouthwash and have medicinal properties to help those inflicted with dysentery. A frayed root also can be used as a toothbrush.

There have also been many studies, published in an array of medical journals, confirming that the coconut may be the source of substantive and wide-ranging health benefits. Beyond that, various parts of the coconut are used for scores of religious, decorative and simply fun purposes – ranging from bird feeders to (not-so-comfortable) halter tops.

Lastly, friends know of the company I created in Hawaii a number of years ago – *COCONUT POST*. Through it we sold coconuts still in their hard husks – upon which one could write an address, a message (to include some that were branded, such as “From one nut to another”) and affix postage, to mail back to the mainland!

To continue reading, click HERE. For Cocos in Palmpedia HERE

All information on the workshop is posted at the project's website www.palms2015.au.dk

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

John Dransfield, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom (Overview of palm research during the past 50 years)

William Baker, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom (Systematics and Evolution)

Thomas Couvreur, IRD, France (Evolution of tropical rain forests)

Jean-Christophe Pintaud, IRD, France (Phytogeography of South American palms)

Jens-Christian Svenning, Aarhus University, Denmark (Macroecology)

Christine Bacon, University of Gothenburg, Sweden (Phytogeography)

Carlos Jaramillo, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama (Paleobotany)

Rodrigo Cámara and **Manuel Macía**, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain (Ethnobotany)

Henrik Balslev and **Wolf Eiserhardt**, Aarhus University, Denmark (Community ecology)

Craig Barrett, California State University, USA (Phylogenomics)

LECTURES AND POSTERS

There will be 36 talks (20 minutes) and 100 posters on palm systematics, evolution, genetics, floristics, ecology, biogeography, conservation, ethnobotany, anatomy, physiology, development, paleobotany, paleoecology, and promising species for cultivation.

All posters will be exhibited during the whole Symposium period.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The abstracts of all accepted contributions will be compiled and distributed to participants (in pdf format) before the Symposium. Abstracts must reach the Secretariat in the`prescribed format by January 31, 2015. The guidelines for abstract preparation are given at the end of this announcement.

Proceedings of the Symposium will be published as a special issue of a world renowned journal.

IMPORTANT DATES

Latest registration with reduced fee	December 31, 2014
Latest abstract submission	January 31, 2015
Latest registration full fee	March 31, 2015
Latest registration for post-symposium field trip	January 31, 2015
Symposium Opening	June 22, 2015
Visit to National Collection of Colombian Palms	June 26, 2015
Closing Dinner	June 26, 2015
Post-Symposium Field Trip 1	June 27
Post-Symposium Field Trip 2	June 28-July 1, July 2-5, 2015

REGISTRATION FEES

	Up to December 31st, 2015	Up to March 31st, 2015
Scholars and researchers	USD 265	USD 365
Active students	USD 215	USD 290

Registration fee includes congress material, welcome reception, lunch, refreshments during the session breaks, transportation to the upper Cocora valley *Ceroxylon* stands and to the National Collection of Colombian palms at the Quindío Botanical Garden. **It does not include participation in the closing dinner and party. If you want to attend these, please add USD 40 to your registration fee.**

Payment through credit card will be available soon. Please check the Symposium's website. Registration can be paid also through bank transfer to Yisela Figueroa Cardozo, Banco Colpatria, Bogotá, Colombia, Saving account No. 004792001327.

Transfer in Euros
Intermediary bank: Deutsche Bank AG Frankfurt.
SWIFT Code: DEUTDEFF
Account number: 100-951330000
IBAN: DE92500700100951330000
Beneficiary bank: Banco Colpatria Bogotá Colombia – COLPCOBB

Transfer in US Dollars:
Intermediary bank : WELLS FARGO BANK N.A NEW YORK
SWIFT Code : PNBPUS3NNYC
ABA Code: 026005092
Account number: 2000192303671
Beneficiary bank: Banco Colpatria Bogotá Colombia – COLPCOBB

A copy of the transfer voucher should be emailed to yfigueroac@unal.edu.co

Correction to fee section above: The lower Registration Fee is for registrations up to December 31st, 2014, not 2015 as printed from brochure.