

would regard them as recent arrivals and would say that there is very little chance of them spreading due to the Miocene limestone present above the four hundred foot contour.

"In areas where the main canopy has been removed, exposing the crown of the *Arenga* to the wind and possibly strong sunlight, it will begin to lose its foliage. To the casual observer it appears dead, but despite its stark appearance it continues to flower and fruit for seven or eight years, possibly longer. I have seen palms, thirty feet in height, denuded of all foliage, produce a series of inflorescences, the lowest being at a height of ten feet from the ground.

"There is no endemic population on the island; our labour force is mainly Chinese recruited from Singapore, consequently any natural lore, botanical or

otherwise is lacking. The only use made of the palm is to cut it into sections as a means to attract the robber crab (*Birgus latro*) which they use as bait when fishing.

"When the fruit of the palm is ripe it attracts these large land crabs and they gather beneath the tree scavenging for the berry. After what was on the ground has been eaten, one or two crabs will eventually climb the palm and try to eat the fruit direct from the branch. To what extent they are successful is debatable, for there appears to be a constant stream of falling fruit, which would indicate that the actual crab doing the plucking is not getting much reward for his labour. Beneath, I have on occasions counted over one hundred crabs, so that when the crab eventually climbs down there is very little remaining."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Dypsis (díp sis) apparently comes from an inflected form (*dyps-*) of the Greek verb *dyptein* (to dip or dive) though neither Noronha, who first used the name without an accompanying description, nor Martius, who first provided a description, gave an origin for the name. Wittstein (*Etymologisch-botanisches Handwörterbuch*, 1852) suggests a meaning that does not make particular sense and it is perhaps best simply to note the meaning as "obscure."

Iguanura (ig oo a new ra) was used by Blume for the palm genus based on *Iguanura leucocarpa* because the inflorescence, beset with scales, resembled the tail of some amphibia belonging to the

genus *Iguanura* (nomen novii hujusce Generis. . . ob aliquam spadicis squamis obsessi cum cauda quorundam Amphibi-orum, quae ad Genus Iguanuram pertinent, similitudinem, ei inditum est—*Rumphia* 2:106. 1843).

Lytocaryum (lie toe ká ree um) was derived from the Greek *lyton* (Latin *solutum*, loosened) and *caryon* (Latin *nucleus*, nut or kernel of a nut) because the fruit coat splits when mature exposing the bony endocarp which contains the seed.

Solfia (sól fee a), a genus described from Samoan palms, honors Wilhelm Solf (1862–1936), onetime governor of German Samoa (1900).