



Fot. Prof. G. Roster.

Arecastrum Romanzoffianum X *Butia*.

Further Notes on *Arecastrum* × *Butia*

Glassman (1971) felt that evidence was insufficient to warrant recognition of the palm hybrid designated by Beccari as *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* × *Butia*. The accompanying photograph will at least attest to the existence of this hybrid. Pictured is Plate V of two plates in Ruffo (1920) showing *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* × *Butia* growing in the garden of the Villa Lucia, Castellammare di Stabia, near Naples, Italy. Ruffo reported that this and another plant were planted in the open in 1908 and 1909 and produced viable seedlings after 1915 or 1916.

Giorgio Roster, the photographer, reported in 1923 that *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* × *Butia* was being grown in six gardens in Italy and France: Chauvassaigne (Villa San Louis), Garavan, Mentone; Nabonnand Nursery, Golfe Juan; Garbari, Trento; Villa Lucia, Castellammare di Stabia; Giardino dell 'Ottone, Island of Elba; and Roster's own Giardino dell 'Otonella, also on the Island of Elba.

Ruffo indicated that the hybrid plants at the Villa Lucia were acquired before 1908 from the Nabonnand Nursery. These hybrids, sold as *Cocos Nabonnandii*, were most likely produced by Paul Nabonnand, known for his breeding of tea roses and *Rosa gigantea* hybrids, for Nicolas (1937) reported that "Nabonnand was commissioned by the French government to hybridize and improve coconut, date, and ornamental palm trees for the French colonies. . . ."

LITERATURE CITED

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ROSTER, GIORGIO. 1923. La resistenza al freddo, la identificazione e la nomenclature delle palme. Firenze.

RUFFO, GIOACCHINO. 1920. Le palme di Villa Lucia 21-22, Plates V & VI.

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LETTERS

The following is in reply to the letter published in *Principes* 16: 10-11.

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
December 30, 1971

DEAR MR. MARTENS,

Thank you for your letter, dated 30th November, 1971, in which you record your observations on the Lord Howe Island palms, following your visit in November, 1971.

The trouble you have taken to express your views in this matter is greatly appreciated and your comments will certainly be borne in mind by the Lord Howe Island Board in its future deliberations and action towards the propagation of the species on the Island.

You will be interested to learn that the Board is contemplating the development of plantation areas in order that, not only the supply of seed can be increased, but that the Island can be further beautified.

Your view concerning the future demand for the seed was recently confirmed by the response to public tenders invited by the Board for the sale of the 1972 crop. You may be assured that everything possible will be done by the Board to increase production.

Thank you once again for your views which, coming from a person who has