costly attempt is now underway to get more seed of this and many other palms of Madagascar.

The overall outline of this palm is similar to *Rhopalostylis sapida.* The major differences are the flat plane of the pinnae in *Neodypsis lastelliana* rather than the V-groove formed by pinnae of *R. sapida*, and the brighter green color of the leaves. The plant pictured has leaves about 12 feet long and one foot of green trunk showing. It produces two or three leaves each year. I would estimate that it is in almost full sun and has virtually no petiole. If there are other specimens anywhere, I hope the owner will write to me and let me know about his or her plant.

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[Editor's note: Dr. Darian asked me to comment on the color of the crownshaft of *Neodypsis lastelliana.* It is a dull red or red-brown not bright red as I remember it, but still an interesting and pleasant contrast to the usual green of palm crownshafts.]

Livistona crustacea Burret

There follows a bit of history I have on the growing of a palm rare to Florida, *Livistona crustacea* Burret. During 1939, while working for the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Dr. David Fairchild gave me a small potted seedling of this palm and told me Dr. Leonard Brass had sent the seed in from New Guinea. The palm was planted here in Palm Beach County on the family homesite west of the city of Lake Worth. It now has an overall height of approximately twelve feet. The crown spread is about eight feet. It has been an attractive specimen since the early years of its growth. Although it has flowered over the past eight or ten years, no fruits have developed. The previous blooming was November, 1971. Flowers appear to be perfect.

In April, 1960, I corresponded with Dr. Leonard J. Brass, now deceased, then associated with the Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida. He obligingly provided photos he had taken of the palm in its native habitat, the type locality for the species, and wrote much interesting information. I am taking the privilege of quoting from one of his letters as follows:

"My records show that seeds of my #7668, *Livistona crustacea* Burret (new species) were sent by air to Colonel Montgomery's Coconut Grove Palmetum in 1936. So far as I know, this is the only collection of the species, although it is possible that some other person has collected it since the war and sent seeds to the Fairchild Garden.

"My collection of *L. crustacea* was made at Lake Daviumbu, Middle Fly River, Territory of Papua, on 3 September 1936. The palm was common on forest edge along shores of swamps and lagoons, growing to a height of about 30 feet (much taller on open ground edging grass marshes); leaf bases persistent on younger trees. . ."

Dr. Brass was present at the 1960 spring meeting of The Palm Society and we discussed *Livistona crustacea* with the Superintendent of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Mr. Stanley Kiem. Later in the year, Mr. Kiem wrote, "In tracing down the palm here at the FTG and at the Jennings' estate, it appears that all the ones planted in 1939 and 1940 were lost in the early 1940's." Mr. Kiem further expressed a desire for seeds at such time as the Lake Worth specimen might produce in order that the palm might be established at the Garden.

The plant has grown in its present location about thirty years with occasional mowing around it and no other care than to cut off dead leaves. Over

the years, several cold spells have "burned" some of the top more tender leaves but never enough to disfigure the palm appreciably. It grows in a black sandy loam soil that is damp most of the time and occasionally flooded a few days.

It would be most interesting to know if anyone else in Florida is growing this palm. One lonely species could use some companionship and possibly promote progeny.

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The above was written September 18, 1972, and received during the absence of the editor who had earlier suggested that the Fairchild Tropical Garden might be interested in having this specimen tree which Mr. Harris was anxious to provide with a new home when his own home site was put up for sale. A letter dated January 30, 1973, noted that the palm had been moved to the Fairchild Tropical Garden on December 4, 1972, and had arrived in excellent shape. Still a further follow-up comes in a paragraph from Dr. John Popenoe, Director of the Garden, in a letter to Mr. Harris, dated January 31, 1973:

"Strange as it may seem we now find that there is another specimen of this species on the Montgomery estate. Ray Vernon recognized it when he saw the article in the bulletin. [*Livistona crustacea*, Fairchild Tropical Garden Bulletin 28(1): 14–16, Jan. 1973.] It, too, has flowered but never set fruit. Perhaps we can now try cross pollination and get seeds for growing more of this species."

Livistona brassii, L. crustacea, and L. muelleri

The name *Livistona crustacea* stirred the editor's memory of unpublished manuscript on *Livistona* in New Guinea, dated December 1969. In preliminary studies of the genus it had become clear, after examining isotype material of *Livistona crustacea* Burret and *L. brassii* Burret, that the two were not truly separable. Appropriately enough, the older name is *Livistona brassii* which should be used if the two species are considered the same. Unfortunately, it seems likely that further detailed study will show that both of these names must fall into the synonymy of the still older *Livistona muelleri* F. M. Bailey, a species of Queensland, Australia. Perhaps before seeds are obtained from the two trees known as *L. crustacea* in Florida, the results of further study will become available. In the interim, it seems fruitless to rename the two individuals now known in cultivation.

H. E. MOORE, JR.

LETTERS

From Teddie Buhler: "I pollinated my *Strongylocaryum* and suddenly the seeds are all turning red. I hope they are viable as the plant is really very pretty with its almost bluish green leaves that have quite wide leaflets. It is getting ready to open the succession of male flowers on a third inflorescence soon; the female flowers open about three weeks after the last male ones have flowered. I seem to have waited too long before pollinating the second spike; very few if any seeds have set."

From Arnold C. Newman: "An interesting footnote to my article [*Euterpe* at Iguassu Falls, Brazil, *Principes* 16: 53–55, 1972] is that the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, arranged with the Brazilian government the collection of five pounds of *Euterpe* seed from the tree described. A courier was sent down to pick up the seed and only one germinated."