of leaves and fallen litter. Such is the activity of soil bacteria in tropical climates that there is little humus in the underlying soil.

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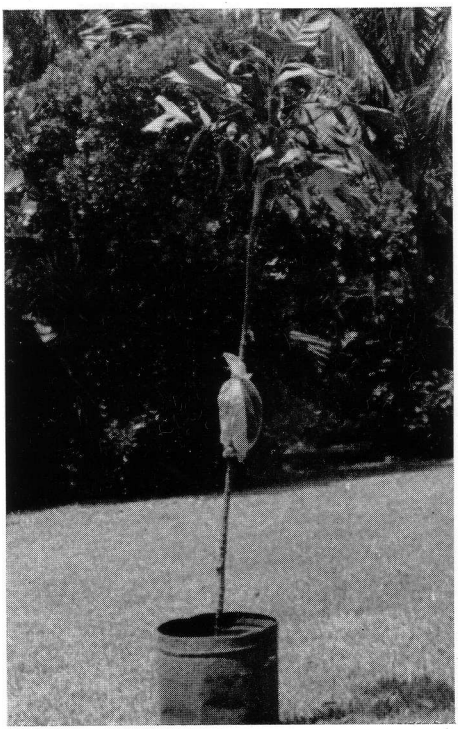
NOTES ON CULTURE

Notes on Marcottage of Certain Palms

Some of us with older gardens occasionally have a palm that has become so tall or ungainly that we would like to bring its crown down closer to the ground as it was when younger. This can be achieved with palms of the genus *Chamaedorea*, possibly with a few others also.

The accompanying photos (Figs. 1, 2) show what large and healthy roots developed on a very leggy old plant of *Chamaedorea metallica* (the form with the somewhat divided leaf), and also on *C. ernesti-augusti* (Figs. 3, 4). Both palms had root initials along their stems. The stems were wrapped with a fair-sized ball of damp sphagnum moss and the moss covered and held in place with a sheet of plastic, all secured with twistems. In an amazingly short time (this was in midsummer), big fat white root tips showed through the plastic. The stem was then cut below the roots and the entire ball put into a pot large enough to permit quite a bit of soil to be placed on all sides of the ball. The plants kept right on growing; the *C. ernesti-augusti* did not even lose any of its developing seeds. The same treatment was accorded a plant grown for many years under the name of *C. humilis* which much resembles *C. elegans* only is not as large. This plant had sent out root initials at nearly every internode. It was in a place where it got too much sun in summer. Instead of moving it, therefore, it was mossed off. Now it is



1. *Chamaedorea metallica* with marcot in place. Photo by T. C. Buhler.

2. New roots formed in marcot enable plant in Figure 1 to be reduced in size. Photo by T. C. Buhler.

3. *Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti* with marcot. Photo by T. C. Buhler.

well established in a pot and waiting to be replanted where it will be happier. The palm probably suffered less than had the entire plant been moved.

4. Top of *C. ernesti-augusti* with roots after removal from old stem at right. Photo by T. C. Buhler

Two large *Chamaedorea elegans* that had no root initials along their stems were a bit stubborn. After they showed no signs of producing roots in about a month, the moss ball was moved up to where the oldest leaves were still on the plant as a few roots seemed to be starting in that area more or less protected by the bases of the flower stalks and leaf bases. Perhaps these roots had formed because the entire plants were well watered to keep the moss wet and this watering may have kept the area protected by the leaf bases moist. By the time the moss was moved upwards it was already September, rather late in the year for such an experiment, but both plants developed adequate new root systems and are now flourishing.

TEDDIE BUHLER

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Hawaii

Member Norman Bezona, County Extension Agent at the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture, writes the following about the new local group organized by him. "The chapter was organized on the Island of Hawaii and officers elected in December 1973 with Donn Carlsmith, President. Vice President is Bunichi Usagawa, Recording Secretary is Jane Robinson, Correspondence Secretary is Frances Schobel, with Bill Hansen, Treasurer and Norman Bezona as Adviser. State Directors are Herbert Shipman, Dr. Yoneo Sagawa, University of Hawaii, Paul Weissich, Foster Gardens and Bill Stewart, Pacific Botanical Gardens on Kauai.

"We have 24 members as of May 1974. Monthly meetings alternate a field trip with a business-program meeting. Our objectives are to grow and distribute native and exotic palms throughout the islands, to interest and educate others in the use of palms in the landscape and to