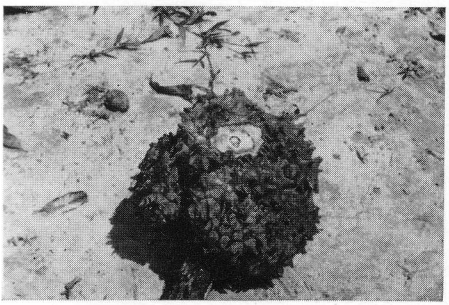
2. A *chonta* salad of fresh palm cabbage.

has now been replaced by plastics. Nevertheless *Phytelephas macrocarpa* continues to be of very minor commercial importance in the Iquitos area because the green fruits are edible. A small hole is cut in the fruit and the liquid and soft endosperm sucked out. In consistency and taste I found the endosperm to be very similar to that of green coconuts. Each of the fruits is no larger than a hen's egg, however, and therefore almost not worth the effort to open it. Only a few sellers in the Iquitos market carry the green fruits.

An excursion into the tropical forest upriver from Iquitos revealed that *yarina* is one of the most common palm species. Gatherers of edible *yarina* walk through the forest and cut into infructescences to determine if the endosperm is still soft. If it has already hardened, as in Fig. 3, it has no value and is left on the tree. Anyone who can think of a use for vegetable ivory could easily obtain a supply from the Iquitos area.



3. An infructescence of *Phytelephas macrocarpa* which has been cut into to determine the ripeness of the fruits.

A final note of interest to palm researchers is the Botanical Garden at Tingo Maria. It is small but rather well stocked with local palms, especially *Iriartea.*

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Kentia (kén tee a) (f.) was named by Blume in memory of William Kent (1779–1827), once curator (1817–1825) of the botanical gardens at Buitenzorg, Java (now Kebun Raya Indonesia at Bogor) under C. G. C. Reinwardt who founded the gardens in 1817. Kent had previously assisted Reinwardt in the capacity of curator of the garden when he was professor at Harderwijk, Holland, and he accompanied Reinwardt on many journeys in the East Indies. Unfortunately, an earlier use of the name *Kentia* by Adanson in 1763 makes *Kentia* Blume illegitimate and it has been replaced by *Gronophyllum* (see *Principes* 3: 111, 1959, for explanation of name). *Kentia* persists, however, in such combinations as *Actinokentia*, *Brongniartikentia*, *Burretiokentia*, *Cyphokentia*, *Dolichokentia*, *Kentiopsis*, *Microkentia*, *Physokentia*, *Satakentia*, and *Siphokentia* as elaborated below. These names are all feminine in gender as is *Kentia.*

Actinokentia (ák tin o kén tee a) is composed of the prefix *actino*, from the Greek *aktis*, *-inos* meaning a ray or beam, and the generic name *Kentia.* The name was not explicitly explained by Dammer but apparently comes from the radially symmetrical nature of the

male flowers as well as the circular scar at the tip of the fruit.

Brongniartikentia (bron nyár tih kén tee a), a genus restricted to New Caledonia, combines with *Kentia* the name of Adolphe Théodore Brongniart (1801–1876), a French botanist who, in addition to studies on fossil plants, published two important articles on palms of New Caledonia.

Burretiokentia (boo rét ee o kén tee a) unites with *Kentia* the name of Max Burret (1883–1964), a German botanist who worked for many years with palms in the herbarium at Berlin-Dahlem. He was the subject of a biographical sketch in *Principes* 2: 87–91, 1958, and is also commemorated in the genus *Maxburretia* (máx boo rét ee a).

Cyphokentia (sý fo kén tee a) is from the Greek *kyphos* (hump, bump) and *Kentia* in allusion to the protuberant lateral to nearly basal stigmatic residue on the fruit.

Dolichokentia (dóll i ko kén tee a) comes from the Greek word *dolichos* (long) and *Kentia*, apparently in reference to the elongate, curved fruit, though Beccari did not explain the name.

Kentiopsis (kén tee óp sis) is from *Kentia* and the Greek *opsis* which means aspect, appearance, and, by extension, resemblance, probably from a supposed resemblance to *Kentia* Blume.

Microkentia (mý kro kén tee a) combines the Greek word *mikros* (small, little) with *Kentia*, presumably because of the small size of plants in this genus relative to other palms of New Caledonia. *Microkentia* is now known by the earlier name *Basselinia* which was explained in *Principes* 14: 36, 1970.

Physokentia (fý so kén tee a) is taken from the Greek *physa* (bellows, bubble) and *Kentia*, probably because of the large, globose fruit.

Satakentia (sá ta kén tee a) combines the names of Toshohiko Satake (1910–), a Japanese industrialist who grows and studies palms as a hobby, and *Kentia*, intentionally utilizing the final and initial "ke" of each name as one syllable. Mr. Satake has had a long and special interest in this palm which comes from the Ryukyu Islands.

Siphokentia (sý fo kén tee a) combines the Latin *sipho*, *-onis* or Greek *siphon*, *-os* (pipe, bent tube) with *Kentia* because the sepals and petals of the female flowers are each united basally in a tube.

H. E. Moore, Jr.

Help! S O S! AIDEZ-NOUS!

Do any of you palm lovers collect stamps? We need some help immediately. A couple of us are preparing a book on Plants on Stamps. It turns out that no one in the American Topical Association knows any palms except coconut, date, and royal. I didn't realize how bad the situation was until I started working on the final (?) draft this winter. A lot of palms identified as one of these three just aren't. With the help of *Hortus Second* and McCurrach's *Palms of the World*, I have been able to figure out a few. But I am no expert. The only palms I have met personally are dates, and a *Washingtonia* in the Milwaukee Horticultural Domes.

Do any of you have a checklist of palms by Scott number? Even an incomplete set? Could any of you identify palms if we sent you the stamps? Some of the artists used a lot of license, so you'd have to know what ones grow where, and what they look like.

We could use an article on palms for our journal, Bio-Philately. Most of us in the colder parts of the world simply don't know about palms. But a checklist first, *please*.

For any help you can give us—many thanks.

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