

REITZ, RAULINO. Flora Illustrada Catarinense. Parte I. Palmeiras. 189 pp., 67 figs., 12 maps. Herbário "Barbosa Rodrigues," Itajai, Santa Catarina, Brasil. 30 August 1974.

Treatments of all species of the eight native genera—*Trithrinax*, *Butia*, *Bactris*, *Astrocaryum*, *Euterpe*, *Attalea*, *Geonoma*, *Arecastrum*—are augmented by accounts of the principal cultivated palms to a total of 25 genera and 35 species. Photographic illustrations accompany the text which is in Portuguese. Keys to species, ample descriptions, data on times of flowering and fruiting, common names, ecological observations (by Roberto M. Klein), distribution, and uses are given for the native palms, and cultivated palms are nearly as completely treated.

JOURNAL OF PLANTATION CROPS. Published by The Indian Society for Plantation Crops, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod 670 124, Kerala, India. \$10.00.

This is a new journal intended ". . . for speedy publication of original articles and invited reviews on all aspects of all plantation crops including spices and condiments." Each volume will consist of about 125 pages in two numbers. Articles may be on agronomy, genetics and breeding, diseases and pests, processing and marketing. The first issue, published in 1973, contains two articles on palms: a study of somatic chromosome complements of tall and dwarf coconuts (*Cocos nucifera* L.) and its bearing on intervarietal variation and evolution in coconuts by T. G. Raveendranath and C. A. Ninan; and a study of control of the red palm weevil on coconut by P. V. Subba Rao, T. R. Subramanian, and E. V. Abraham. It is likely that more articles will follow since coconuts and arecanuts (*Areca*

catechu L.) are important plantation crops in India.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PLANTATION CROPS, DECEMBER 8-9, 1972, TRIVANDRUM, KERALA. Journal of Plantation Crops Volume 1 (Supplement). 1973 [1974]. Available from The Secretary, Indian Society for Plantation Crops, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod 670 124, Kerala, India. \$20.00.

Seven sessions of this symposium were devoted to genetics and plant breeding, agronomy and soil science, physiology and biochemistry, plant pathology, entomology, technology, and a panel discussion. Seventeen articles or abstracts of papers presented relate directly to the coconut and arecanut.

H. E. MOORE, JR.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Phoenix (féé nix) (f.) is a Latin transcription of the Greek *phoinix* (date palm, palm) and thus is feminine in gender, unlike the masculine gender of *Phoenix* when used for a fabulous bird or for a companion of Achilles in Greek legend. The name has been used in combination with other words, probably in the sense of "palm," in the following generic names which are also feminine in gender: *Acanthophoenix* (see *Principes* 12: 142, 1968 for explanation), *Archontophoenix* (see *Principes* 3: 143, 1959 for explanation), *Beccariophoenix*, *Brassiophoenix*, *Chamaephoenix*, *Chunioophoenix*, *Cyphophoenix*, *Englerophoenix*, *Phoenicophorium*, *Pseudophoenix*, *Rehderophoenix*, *Tessmanniophoenix*, *Toxophoenix*, *Vitiphoenix*.

Beccariophoenix (bek áre ee o féé nix) combines with *phoenix* the name of Odoardo Beccari (1843-1920), an

Italian botanist and one of the great students of palms. Beccari spent several years in the Old World tropics and later worked on palms for many years at Florence. His monographs of lepidocaryoid palms in particular are exceptionally useful because of their excellent descriptions and photographic illustrations. A biographical note (in Italian) appeared in *Webbia* 5: 295-343, 1921.

Brassiophoenix (bráss ee o fée nix) honors the late Leonard J. Brass (1900-1971) whose exceptional collections of palms in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands provided the materials which served for the description of numerous species. An appreciation of Dr. Brass with photograph appeared in *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 52: 695-698, 1971.

Chamaephoenix (kám ee fée nix) comes from the Greek *chamai* which means "on the ground," thus dwarf or low-growing, combined with *phoenix* to give dwarf palm or dwarf date palm. The name is a synonym for *Pseudophoenix*.

Chuniophoenix (chún ee o fée nix) honors W. Y. Chun who was Director of the Botanical Institute, College of Agriculture, Sun Yatsen University, Canton, China about 1937 when Burret described the genus.

Cyphophoenix (sí foe fée nix) was not explained but is taken from the Greek *kyphos* (bent, humped, hunch-backed) and *phoenix*. Possibly the fruit, which has a prominent terminal stigmatic residue, accounts for the name.

Englerophoenix (éng ler o fée nix) uses the name of Heinrich Gustav Adolf Engler (1844-1930) in combination with *phoenix*. Engler was a German botanist who initiated and edited a series of ambitious botanical works dealing with plants on a world basis and following a system largely devised

by himself. Today the name is treated as a synonym of *Maximiliana* which has been conserved by international action.

Phoenicophorium (fée nik o foí ee um) (n.) combines *phoenix* with the Greek *phorios* (stolen), hence stolen palm or, as sometimes put in English, thief palm. The story was told by J. Smith, once Curator of the Royal Gardens at Kew, who is quoted in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* 119: plate 7277, 1893, as follows: "In 1857 Mr. Wendland, Director of the Royal Gardens Herrenhausen, Hanover, visited Kew, and was anxious to obtain a plant of this rare palm; I had marked one of the plants for him and on taking him to the nursery pits to show it to him, it was not to be found. This led to a strict inquiry, and it was found that it had been stolen by a German gardener then employed in the gardens, and it afterwards appeared in a private garden in Berlin; and some years afterward I heard that it had grown to be a fine plant." Although in the past this name was considered inappropriate, it has priority and must be accepted under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. It was Wendland, himself, who quite understandably coined the name published in 1865. Because of the ending, this name is neuter in gender.

Pseudophoenix (súe doe fée nix) or false date palm, usually known as cherry palm in English because of the red, cherrylike fruits, combines the Greek *pseudo* (false, or resembling but not equalling) with *phoenix*.

Rehderophoenix (ráy der o fée nix) commemorates Alfred Rehder (1863-1949) who was for many years associated with the Arnold Arboretum and who was the author of a *Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs* among other works.

Tessmanniophoenix (téss man ee o féé nix) honors Günter Tessmann (1884-), a German descriptive anthropologist now living in Brazil, who studied and wrote about peoples of West Africa (*Die Pangwe*, 1913) and of eastern Peru (*Die Indianer nordost-Perus*, 1930). In Peru, he collected specimens that served as the basis for a new genus which is now considered a synonym of *Chelyocarpus*, as is also *Tessmanniodoxa* (téss man ee o dóx a). The last combined Tessmann's name with the Greek *doxa* (glory), thus glory of Tessmann.

Toxophoenix (tóx o féé nix), now considered merely a synonym of *Astrocaryum*, was given its name by Schott because indigenous peoples of Brazil made their bows from the wood of the palm, *toxon* being the Greek word for bow.

Vitiphoenix (véé tee féé nix), now a synonym of *Veitchia*, is taken from Viti Levu, largest of the Fiji Islands, and *phoenix*, thus a palm of Viti Levu.

Chelyocarpus (chéel ee o cár puss) (m.) was so named by Dammer because the surface of the fruit of the species he knew is checked, much like the carapace of a turtle. *Chelys* is the Greek word for tortoise or turtle, *carpus* a Latin adaptation of the Greek *carpos* (fruit) or *-carpus*, a suffix meaning -fruited; the two together might be translated as "turtle-fruited."

H. E. MOORE, JR.

NOTES ON CULTURE

In August, 1971, I was in the north of Mozambique looking for cycads and other interesting plants. I knew of a place where *Raphia farinifera* palms were growing, so I visited the location to collect some seed and a few seedling plants. The seedlings, about 18 inches high, lasted bare-root in damp newspaper for six days before I was able to

plant them; they have all grown successfully since.

I collected quite a lot of seed which had fallen very recently so it was really fresh. Having seen how some older seed had germinated after just being pressed into the moist soil, I planted my seed in moist sand in a shadehouse, first removing the very attractive outer shell. The seed stayed like this for about 12 months when I came to the conclusion that there was not enough heat for the seed to germinate, so I filled a shallow box with sand and just pressed the seed into it. I then covered the box with a sheet of clear polythene and put it in a sunny place where it stayed for another year and still none germinated. I was getting tired of seeing them lying around, so I took all the seed, put them in a black polythene bag, poured in a little water, tied the top, and put it in a glass-roofed propagating house. The temperature in the house gets quite high so in the polythene bag it must have been really hot, 100°F. or more.

After about six months, I looked into the bag and was amazed to see some of the seed growing. Seeds continued to germinate until now about 75 percent have grown. I leave them in the polythene bag until roots are formed, then plant them into individual polythene bags. I wonder why they took so long to grow?

I. S. TURNER
Springs Farm
P. O. Box 2162
Salisbury, Rhodesia

From John Brudy in Cocoa Beach, Florida comes the following:

In March 1970, when at the botanical garden in Bogor, Java, I collected and shipped home 18 seeds of *Socratea durissima*, identified by A. Dilmy in whose personal company I was at the