

PALM BRIEFS

A Nomenclatural Note on *Hyophorbe*

A monographic study of the genus *Hyophorbe* is in preparation, but one of the conclusions requires advance publication in order to provide a name that can be used in *Hortus Third* and in another publication. It has become clear that the genus *Mascarena* is not adequately separated from *Hyophorbe* and that the palm commonly cultivated as *Mascarena lagenicaulis* must be transferred to the older genus. Study has shown that *Mascarena revaughanii* L. H. Bailey is not different from *M. lagenicaulis*, and in combining the two I am taking up the epithet that is descriptive and not likely to be confused with *Hyophorbe vaughanii*.

The five species are:

Hyophorbe amaricaulis Martius

Hyophorbe indica J. Gaertner

Hyophorbe lagenicaulis (L. H. Bailey) H. E. Moore, *comb. nov.*

Mascarena lagenicaulis L. H. Bailey,
Gentes Herbarum 6: 74. 1942

Mascarena revaughanii L. H. Bailey,
Gentes Herbarum 6: 72. 1942

Hyophorbe vaughanii L. H. Bailey

Hyophorbe verschaffeltii H. Wendland

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A Note on *Asraoa triandra* (Palmae)

Joseph (1975) has described a new genus and species of palm, *Asraoa triandra*, from Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh, India. The collections were made in September and November, 1969

and again in January, 1970, at the same or different localities within the same district. The collector also observed female and male inflorescences on the same group of plants at different times. From the detailed description, the palm appears to be monocarpic, a characteristic of most of the caryotoid group of palms (Moore, 1973). In monocarpic habit, inflorescences develop basipetally from a terminal inflorescence which is generally a female, followed by axillary male inflorescences. This monocarpic habit is seen in all three genera (*Arenga*, *Caryota*, *Wallichia*) of the caryotoid group. *Arenga* Labill. has imparipinnate or undivided leaves, often aggregate inflorescences, distinct sepals and petals in staminate flowers, numerous stamens, trilocular ovary with 2-3 fertile locules, and homogeneous endosperm. *Caryota* L. has bipinnate leaves, solitary inflorescences, reduction of fertile locules to 1-2, and development of ruminant endosperm; the pistillate flowers have less united petals. *Wallichia* Roxb. has separate staminate and pistillate inflorescences, the female usually terminal, axillary inflorescences male, staminate flowers with sepals united in a low, cylindrical, 3-lobed or undulate calyx, petals united in a short to long, more or less solid cylindrical base with valvate lobes, stamens reduced in numbers, generally six, fruit 1-3-seeded, and endosperm homogeneous.

The detailed description of the genus *Asraoa* Joseph and examination of the holotype and isotypes shows its striking similarity with *Wallichia* Roxb. in vegetative and reproductive structures and also in its monocarpic habit. The description as dioecious may be due to the result of observations for a short duration. Moore (1960) reported variation in the number of stamens even in a single plant of the caryotoid group.

Moreover no satisfactory generic delimitation on number of stamens alone is possible from our existing knowledge of this group. Hence I feel it is ambiguous to accord a separate generic status to *Asraoa* Joseph solely on the basis of reduction in number of stamens when other characters as a whole do not permit it to remain distinct from *Wallichia* Roxb. The reduction in the number of stamens to three, which I have also examined from dissected flowers, is fairly constant. Therefore, I consider it only a separate species under the genus *Wallichia* Roxb.

Wallichia triandra (Joseph) S. K. Basu, *comb. nov.*

Asraoa triandra Joseph, Bull. Bot. Surv. India. 14 (1-4): 145. 1975 (1972)

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LITERATURE CITED

- JOSEPH, J. 1972. *Asraoa triandra* (Arecaceae)—A new genus and species of palm from Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh. Bull. Bot. Surv. India 14 (1-4): 144-148.
- MOORE, H. E., JR. 1960. A new subfamily of palms—the Caryotoideae. Principes 4: 102-117.
- . 1973. The major groups of palms and their distribution. Gentes Herb. 11 (2): 27-141.

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Word from the Southern California Chapter is that their first Annual Banquet on March 20, 1976 was a huge

success with 110 members and guests. An interesting sight on the tour of the Palms Restaurant and patio was a four-headed *Livistona chinensis*. The after-dinner speaker was the noted naturalist Arnold Newman who spoke about the Rain Forest, Palms and Other Tropical Plants. Afterwards plants were auctioned off and four door prizes given to the lucky ticket-holders. The highlight of the evening was the competitive bidding on the extremely rare *Jubaeopsis caffra* from South Africa. It was the first time it had been available at an auction and was a seedling with only one leaf 3" or 4" high. It was bid up to \$32! This must be a record of some kind. Total of the auction was \$347.50 so bidding was lively and plants interesting, among them *Trithrinax acanthocoma*. The evening having been such a success, the banquet probably will become an annual affair.

The Miami members met at the garden and home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Thomas on April 17, 1976 to see slides taken at many faraway places by our host over the past twenty years. Members enjoyed the interesting garden with well-established palms, most of which had been planted by previous owner and former member Malcolm Kneale, who had been an avid palm fancier. The well-planted property makes an ideal setting for the charming house the Thomases built, utilizing the palms to create a delightful aspect.

Palm and Fern Fair

The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Palm Society, together with the International Fern Society, will hold a Palm and Fern Fair at the Mounts Agricultural Center, 531 No. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Florida, on Saturday, October 17, 1976, at 10 a.m. There will be hundreds of varieties of rare and