

for February 6 to visit Dent Smith's palm collection but was called off due to the effects of the freeze in January. Other matters discussed were the possibilities of increasing the number of palms to be tried in the colder North Florida area, and to make up an information sheet for new members as well as a sales letter indicating the availability of extra seedlings. Mary Noble, editor of the Garden News in the Florida Times-Union, ran a notice of the formation of this new chapter.

On Saturday, January 29, 1977, the Miami area members met at Paul Drummond's garden and from there proceeded to Fairchild Garden. The meeting had been planned before the disastrous freeze of January 19. Due to the freeze the meeting turned into a tour to see the effects already apparent on the palms of the low temperature. In many spots it was the lowest temperature ever recorded. All veitchias have brown leaves, latanias are all brown and the bismarkias have turned white! The cycad collection was badly hit; many of the beautiful plants are just a mass of brown leaves. At the Garden it went to 27°F (-3C) in the open. Oddly, the licualas were apparently undamaged, but carpentarias, *Ptychosperma elegans*, *Caryota*, *Ai-phanes* and many others were burned. Most will probably recover but it is still much too soon to tell how bad the actual damage will be. *Heterospatha elata* was undamaged as were the *Phoenix*. A request has been sent to all Florida members to find out as much as possible about the cold and its effects on palm plantings. It may be a year or so until it can all be correctly assessed.

Notice

Back issues of PRINCIPES, starting with Vol. 3 no. 3 through current issue are available at a cost of \$1.50 each, which includes postage and handling. The 11

earlier issues (Vol. 1 has five issues) have been reprinted and cost \$2.50 each issue or a total of \$27.50 for the set. Purchasers of all 11 reprints at one time may deduct 10 percent from the cost, paying \$24.75 instead of \$27.50. All can be ordered through the office of The Palm Society, 1320 S. Venetian Way, Miami, FL 33139, USA. Also available are two reprints about hardy palms for 75¢ together, including postage and handling.

TEDDIE BUHLER

PALM BRIEFS

A Growing Campus Palm Collection

At Ventura College in Ventura, California, a new palm garden is coming into being in a most unlikely manner. It is the brainchild of swimming coach Jim Tallman who, in May of 1975, proposed to the College's Committee on Campus Development that palms be planted near the swimming pool instead of the oak and pepper trees planned for the site, whose leaves would blow in the pool and need constant care for removal. A palm frond, however, could be picked out easily. So, in his proposal he outlined the species he wanted, the timetable for planting, stated reasons and need—to enhance the campus, to provide a place for people to see and learn about palms, and to put in foliage that doesn't require a lot of maintenance. Tallman felt he could procure the desired palms through donations and so far he has succeeded. When his group sees a palm they like, if it is growing in someone's front yard, they ring the doorbell and ask the owners if they may have the palm for the palm gardens at the college. Sometimes they hear that palms are to be uprooted as progress puts in concrete. Two of the tallest palms, nearly 50 feet, were acquired in this way. Hauling

these large plants to their new home was a double-team effort involving Bill Ayala, instructor at Oxnard College in a course in operation of heavy equipment, the heavy equipment, and more students.

Tallman has 75 students in his crew so labor is no problem. Most of them excel at swimming and he feels they can excel at palm gardening or anything else if they read enough books. Tallman himself learned a lot about palms from books and from Joe Sullivan who, until his death, was a valuable friend. And now Joe's widow, Pauleen (Secretary of The Palm Society) is helping with the project. Emphasis is on variety of palms, and all society members have been asked to be generous in their contributions to enhance this collection which will in time be a great asset, as the climate in Ventura is more suitable than at Huntington Gardens, the closest larger palm collection. Help has come from even as far away as Puerto Rico. And, as one of the swimming team said: "For taking swimming, you get to do this for free," as he and another student dug a 3½-foot-deep hole to hold the garden's latest acquisition.

TEDDIE BUHLER

Variegation in *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*

In 1972 while engaging in field work for a study of the needle palm, *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*, I discovered two variegated plants in a swamp located just north of the town of Oviedo, Seminole County, Florida. To my knowledge, this is the first record of variegation in this species. Unfortunately the variegation was not permanent, for subsequent fronds produced by both plants were completely green. The cause of this temporary variegation is not known. It is regrettable that it was not permanent since a palm like the one pictured would



make a striking cultivated plant. The stripes varied from cream to almost yellow-cream in color.

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New Palms from the Pacific, IV

Physokentia avia H. E. Moore, *sp. nov.*

Folia regulariter pinnata pinnis utrinque ca. 26 acutis unicastis sine ramentis. Fructus ater, depresso-globosus, 13–15 mm. in diam., endocarpio ca. 9 mm alto, 10 mm in diam., fragili, carinis indistinctis, seminis endospermio ruminato.

Holotype: *Stevens & Isles LAE 58394* (BH).

Trunk solitary, to ca. 15 m high, with prop roots to 2.5 m long.

Leaves regularly pinnate, 1.5–2 m long; sheath 5–8 dm long, punctulate with depressions of deciduous scales basally, densely brown floccose-lepidote below petiole or punctulate with brown bases where scales have disappeared; petiole 20 cm long or more, rounded beneath, shallowly channelled above, densely brown floccose-lepidote or punctulate where scales have disappeared;