a wonderful lagoon worth a stop. Here we saw over 30 species of land, sea, and water birds in just a few minutes. If you are planning on going south from Puerto Vallarta, the next day fill up with gas, as the only station is in the northern part of town. You may want to make Puerto Vallarta your base, as it has a big jet airport and most of the really wonderful palm sites are just to the north and to the south.

Puerto Vallarta to Manzanillo is over a brand new excellent road. A few words of warning. Get an early start and have a full tank of gas and watch your time as there is little traffic on the road and it is said to be very dangerous at night due to robbers. In spite of other articles to the contrary, there are no reliable places to stay or to get gas or food. We know, as we ran out of gas and had to get Club Med to sell us some—no mean achievement. One of the most interesting parts of the trip is a great mountain chasm about an hour to the south of Puerto Vallarta. Here we saw a forest of *Cryosophila nana*, a fan palm growing as an understory palm in a dry deciduous forest. It was a rather scruffy looking palm with few fronds and few leaves. It was thin-trunked, about 3–4 m tall with long petioles, and was not in flower. It was above the road cliffs and hard to see. Worth the whole trip was the forest of *Orbignya guacuyule* near Melenque, just north of Manzanillo. Some of these huge specimens reached 50–70 m and resembled the *Ceroxylon* that I had seen in the Andes of Columbia on the Palm Society trip the year before. All were in heavy green to greenish-orange fruit with about 200 fruit in a bunch and each fruit about the size of the fruit of the peach palm, *Bactris gasipaes*. Some of the trees seemed to be in bad shape as if they had lethal yellowing and a Mexican we spoke to remarked upon this condition. Juvenile specimens were abundant and the leaves are used locally for thatch.

Melenque to Guadalajara is over a tortuous old mountain road. We were very glad there was no fog and that our car was small. We left the sea and drove through lovely fields of sugar cane and then began the three hours of climbing the sierra. Just over the summit was an extensive oak forest. On the high plains we stopped for lunch in the pleasant town of Autlan and enjoyed our lunch overlooking a plaza lined with large *Ficus* and streets lined with old *Arecastrum romanzoffianum*. The rest of the drive to Guadalajara is across the lovely high plateau. An alternate route from Manzanillo to Guadalajara passes south along the sea and a lagoon beside great coconut plantations. When the road leaves the sea and turns east, it passes through the town of Colima at the foot of this still active volcano.

Whatever route you follow it will be a trip to remember for the beauty and wildness of the land and palms.

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## NOTES ON CULTURE

### Windmill Palm Survives Winter of 1976 in Maryland Garden

The windmill palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, has proved remarkably hardy as documented by its survival in the garden of Mr. Harry U. Winters of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mr. Winters planted a small windmill palm less than one foot high in the spring of 1970. To give it the best possible chance for survival, he located it on the southeast side of his home on a slight hill that would provide protection from wind and allow for cold air drain-

1. *Trachycarpus fortunei* in garden of Mr. Harry Winters, Hagerstown, Maryland.

age. In the following winters he erected a plastic-covered wood frame around the palm, which covered it much like a small greenhouse. As weather moderated in the spring, he would remove this cover for the next season's growth.

Hagerstown is located on the colder edge of Zone 7a of the U.S.D.A. Plant Hardiness Zone Map with an average minimum dropping to or below 0° F. The winter of 1976, however, proved a real test for the palm when, on January 17, the temperature dropped to 8° below zero and remained below the freezing mark for several days. The palm was completely defoliated at those temperatures and appeared lifeless until spring.

The leaf bud apparently was undamaged, because the tree began to shoot forth first one badly burned leaf, then another, and another, until the palm at this writing (November, 1977) sports 19 fronds. The accompanying photograph shows a complete recovery from last winter's cold. The palm measures 36 inches around the trunk, is seven feet tall, with fronds three feet long and over three feet wide.

I believe the crucial factor in the palm's survival was the protection provided by the frame, which protected the leaf bud from cold and wetness. Similar individuals in the milder metropolitan area of Washington, D. C., appear dead or nearly so.

Those society members who live in marginal palm-growing areas may be motivated to experiment as did Mr. Winters by using similar methods of protection on this and other palms.

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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Alloschmidia* (ál oh schmíd ee a) is a combination of the Greek prefix *allo-* (other, another) and the surname of M. Maurice Schmid, a French botanist who worked in New Caledonia for a number of years. *Schmidia* Wight, named after Bernard Schmid, precludes the use of the name again, hence the prefix.

*Asterogyne* (ass tér oh jý nee) was published without explanation of the name, which combines the Greek word for star (*aster*) with the word for woman or female (*gyne*). It is likely that the name was suggested by the pattern of the corolla in the pistillate flower. The corolla lobes were described as recurved and imbricate in a starlike fashion.

*Balaka* (ba lá ka) is the Fijian spelling of the vernacular name for plants of the genus, which is, however, pronounced mbalaka in Fijian, the letter b standing for the sound mb in English.

*Calyptrogyne* (ka líp tro jý nee), according to Hermann Wendland, takes its name from the Greek word for lid or cover (*kalyptra*) and the word for