

NOMENCLATRURAL NOTES

Brahea aculeata

Species of *Erythea* known in cultivation but lacking names in the genus *Brahea* were transferred to that genus (Moore 1975) in preparation for the publication of *Hortus Third* by the staff of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University. The union of *Erythea* with *Brahea* had previously been suggested in a list of recognized palm genera (Moore 1973). *Erythea aculeata* was not then listed in files of cultivated palms, but it is now grown in Hawaii and a name under *Brahea* is needed for it in Baker's list published elsewhere in this issue. The following combination is therefore proposed:

Brahea aculeata (Brandegee) H. E. Moore, **comb. nov.**

Erythea aculeata Brandegee, *Zoe* 5: 196. 1905.

LITERATURE CITED

- MOORE, H. E., JR. 1973. The major groups of palms and their distribution. *Gentes Herb.* 11: 27-141.
 ———. 1975. Nomenclatural notes for *Hortus Third*: *Palmae*. *Bailey* 19: 168.

H. E. MOORE, JR.
 L. H. Bailey Hortorium
 Cornell University
 Ithaca, N.Y. 14853

NOTES ON CULTURE

A Note on Mulching in South Florida

One of our members, Mr. Frederick W. Shick, of Naples, Florida, has lovely palms in a lovely setting along the edge of a body of salt water. He was asked to tell about the method he uses to mulch his garden, which was a delightful place. The mulch made for a

soft, attractive feeling and appearance underfoot. Here is his report:

"Approximately ten years ago I found that I was spending a considerable amount of time weeding the beds under and around a pepper hedge that was about 450 ft long. In order to cut down on this weeding, I decided to mulch the entire bed heavily, using the chipped material that a local tree trimmer was disposing of from his trimming operations. (In many Florida cities a coarse shredding machine reduces the size of the cut material so a truck holds far more than it could if branches were just loaded.) The first couple of truck loads I received from him I put on as received to a depth of about six inches.

"It wasn't long until I discovered that the consistency of the material varied considerably, at which time I decided to invest in a good shredder. Although this proved to double the amount of work, since the mulch had to first be put through the shredder and then spread on the beds, it not only improved the looks of the beds mulched, but also made the mulch deteriorate much faster and hence a better compost.

"All this proved so satisfactory as a weed deterrent under the pepper hedge that I next eliminated the wedelia ground cover around all my palms and mulched everything heavily—up to 12"—with the exception of the lawn area. Two benefits have been derived from this mulching:

- 1) It has practically eliminated the need for fertilizing and
- 2) it has proved to be an ideal germinating medium for the seeds that drop.

"I would advise anyone thinking of doing this NOT to accept any trimmings that include palm material since it does not chip well, and is hard to handle because of its being stringy.

(Many shredders cannot handle this stringy, fibrous material.)

"Although there is considerable work involved in shredding the material I have found it to be very worthwhile, to the extent that I now use about 12 to 14 truck loads a year."

FRED S. SHICK

Not only does the mulch cut down on fertilizing and weeding, but it also helps conserve moisture. As a result Mr. Shick's palms looked very beautiful, they obviously relished the mulch. There is one thing though, that should be watched—do not let the mulch pile up too heavily around palm trunks as it could be a breeding place for fungus and molds which would affect the palm trunk, especially during a season of heavy rain.

TEDDIE BUHLER

Ceroxylons in Northern California

Coastal Northern California and the Andean mountain ranges of tropical South America have a remarkably similar climate. It is cool all year but mild, with little or no freezing in many areas. In these areas moisture is abundant; although the California climate has a long dry season, the coastal areas receive an almost daily fog at that time—the air is very humid and even the ground is watered in some areas of fog condensation. To palm enthusiasts this climate type in the Andes brings to mind the beautiful palms of the genus *Ceroxylon*. Except for a few species, the genus *Ceroxylon* is not well described. But even from the few described species—*C. alpinum*, *C. klopstockia*, *C. hexandrum*, *C. quindiuense*, and *C. utile*—one can choose from a relatively small *C. utile* to the tall giant of all palms, *C. quindiuense*. These species range in alti-

tude of habitat from a few thousand feet to well over 10,000 feet. Shouldn't some of these adapt to Northern California?

Trials over the years in Southern California have been disappointing. Successes are few and often temporary. Dry heat is a deadly enemy of *Ceroxylon*. Member Mardy Darian had in Vista one of the largest, a *C. quindiuense*, which was killed a few years ago by late summer's heat. Member Ed Moore has a beautiful *C. alpinum* shade grown in a cool area in the ocean influence near the beach area of San Diego. And Pauleen Sullivan has a *Ceroxylon* in Ventura which is growing well in a cool moist spot. It appears to me to be *C. hexandrum*. In Northern California these palms unfortunately had not been tried so far as we know until very recently. Perhaps the first was a *C. alpinum* planted by Warren Dolby at his beautiful hillside garden in Oakland. It was a few years old and thriving in 1972 when it perished following a transplant.

Northern California members finally got our first real chance to try ceroxylons after the Palm Society Colombia trip following the Biennial Meeting in 1974. A few seeds and seedlings of *C. quindiuense* were obtained and shortly thereafter seeds of *C. hexandrum* came through the seed bank. The resulting plants, although few in number, seemed to thrive in our climate. It had been suggested in the past that these palms might require a mycorrhizal fungus association with the roots. Wanting to take no chances with my plants, I contacted Mardy Darian who kindly provided soil and root fragments from his *C. quindiuense* and also suggested that any good woods soil might contain an appropriate fungus. Some of my seedlings were grown in sterilized potting mix, some in forest soil, and some in sterilized mix inoculated with Dr. Darian's soil. All of