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## PALM BRIEF

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# *Geonoma tenuissima*\*

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### *Geonoma tenuissima* H. E. Moore, sp. nov.

Ab omnibus speciebus *Geonomae* foliis anguste cuneatis inflorescentiis latoribus quam longis rachillis tenuissimis alveolis bilabiatis remotis spiraliter dispositis differt.

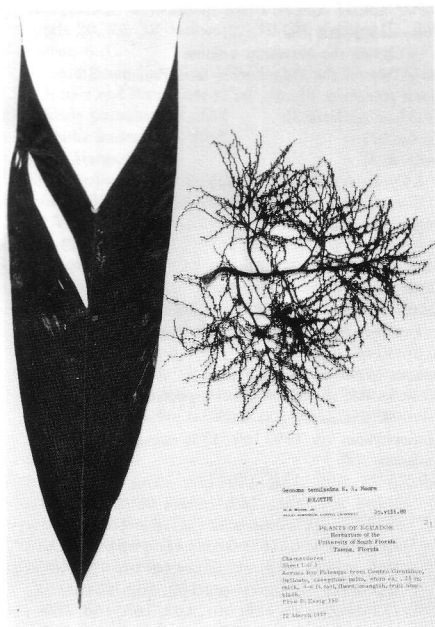
Stems cespitose, slender, to ca. 1.8 m high, 0.6 cm in diam. Leaves undivided laterally; petiole 15 cm or more long, deeply channeled above, rounded beneath; rachis 25-31 cm long, rounded and glabrous beneath, angled above and margined toward base with translucent, glistening, mostly branched scales, the branches inflated distally; blade narrowly cuneate in outline, divided ca. 1/3 at the apex with acuminate lobes 14-15 cm long

on inner margin, 11.2-12.8 cm wide at apex of rachis, primary ribs ca. 22 at an angle of 19-24° with the rachis. Inflorescences wider than long, paniculate, 16-20 cm long, 21-28 cm wide, glabrous, but all axes more or less minutely tuberculate; peduncle short, 2.4-3.2 cm long; prophyll and peduncular bract not seen; rachis 11-13 cm long, with ca. 13-16 branches, the lower 3 times branched into very slender rachillae ca. 0.5 mm wide, to 6.5 cm long, spinose-tipped, bearing widely dispersed pits in a spiral, the pits about twice as thick as rachillae, bilabiate, the lips entire, the orifice ca. 1 mm long and wide. Flowers tinged orange, ca. 1.5 mm long; staminate flowers with sepals ca. 3/4 as long as petals; stamens 6, filaments spreading, locules borne at an acute angle with the filament, the sterile base short; pistillate buds acute; staminodial tube truncate. Fruit globose, blue-black at maturity, ca. 5 mm diam., not drying pebbled.

\* This description was beside Hal's dissecting scope when he died in October 1980. He had asked for a photo (Fig. 1) of the specimen and the manuscript was marked for the printer. It is one of several of his unpublished papers that we have included in this memorial volume.—N. W. Uhl.

ECUADOR: LOS RIOS PROVINCE:  
across Rio Palenque from Centro Científico,  
150–220 m, 22 Mar 1977, F. B. Essig 350 (USF, holotype).

*Geonoma tenuissima* keys to *G. leptospadix*



1. Photograph of the type specimen of *Geonoma tenuissima* (Essig 350).

*tospadix* Trail in both Burret's treatment of *Geonoma* (1930) and Boer's monograph (1968). It differs from that species in the more highly ramified, short-pedunculate inflorescence (Fig. 1) and smaller fruit (5 vs. 8 mm in diam.), which does not dry with the pebbled surface characteristic of *G. leptospadix*. A third species characterized by very slender rachillae with widely separated, prominent pits is *Geonoma gastoniana* Glaziou ex Drude from which *G. tenuissima* differs not only in the highly ramified, short-pedunculate inflorescence but also in the undivided leaf blade with primary ribs departing at an angle of 19–24° from the rachis. Although collected across the river from the Rio Palenque Science Center, *G. tenuissima* apparently does not occur on the property of the center (cf. Dodson and Gentry 1978).

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