

Principes, 27(4), 1983, p. 184

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Calospatha (cal oh spáy tha) is built up from the Greek *kalos* (beautiful) and *spatha* (bract), and indeed, the inflorescence bracts are of extraordinary form and elegantly armed with spines.

Eugeissona (you guy só na) is derived from the Green *eu* (good) and *geisson* (cornice of a roof), alluding to the use for thatch of the leaves of *E. tristis* Griffith, the first species to be described. In fact, the leaves of *E. tristis* do not make a very durable thatch and they are primarily used for temporary shelters in the forest. Griffith regarded the generic name as neuter, but Beccari used feminine endings for the species he described; currently *Eugeissona* is regarded as feminine.

Licuala (lih quáhl a) is a latinization of the native name 'leko wala', supposed to have been used for *L. spinosa* in Makassar, Celebes.

Livistona (liv i stóne a) honors Patrick Murray, Baron Livingstone, who laid out a garden on his estate at Livingstone, west of Edinburgh, with more than a thousand different species, at some time before 1680. These plants were used as the foundation of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

Metroxylon (met rócks ill on) combines the Greek *metra* (pith) with *xylon* (wood or tree)—the tree with well-developed pith, i.e., filled with sago.

Myrialepis (mir ee a léap iss) is derived from the Greek *myrioi* (very many) and *lepis* (scale), in reference to the countless minute scales of the fruit, the most important diagnostic feature.

Normanbya (nor man bée a) is named after Sir George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Second Marquis of Normanby (1819–1890), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia 1858–1863, Governor of Queensland 1871–1874, Governor of New Zealand 1874–1879, and Governor of Victoria 1879–1884.

Ophiria (oh féar ee a) is named after Mount Ophir (Gunung Ledang) in Johor, Malaysia, where the genus was first collected. A second Mount Ophir (Gunung Talakmau) occurs in West Sumatra. The genus is now regarded as a synonym of *Pinanga*.

Orania (or aín ee a) commemorates F. G. L. Willem van Nassau, Prince of Orange (Oranje) and Crown Prince of the Netherlands (1792–1849).

Pholidocarpus (foll i doh cár pus) is a rather inappropriate name, being a combination of the Greek *pholidos* (scale) and *carpos*, latinized to *carpus* (fruit). The fruit in this genus is not really scaly but covered in low corky warts.

Pholidostachys (foll i doh stáck iss) similarly combines *pholidos* (scale) with *stachys* (an ear of wheat or, in botanical usage, a spike) in reference to the pit bracts on the rachillae.

Seaforthia (sea fórh ee a) commemorates Francis Mackenzie Humberston, Lord of Seaforth and Mackenzie (1754–1815). During 1800–1806 he was Governor of Barbados and was responsible for sending a large collection of living plants to Aylmer Bourke Lambert in England.

JOHN DRANSFIELD
NATALIE W. UHL