

Professor Dr. Max Burret

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Karl Ewald Maximilian Burret was born on June 6, 1883, in Saffig bei Andernach, Germany, the son of a landowner. He reached maturity at Koblenz and, at the wish of his father, first studied law at Lausanne, Switzerland. Then—his own inclination speaking—he changed to the study of natural history at Berlin. In 1909 he took his doctor's degree under Adolph Engler, then the Director of the Botanical Garden and Museum at Berlin-Dahlem, with his study entitled "The Comparative Relationship and Distribution of the African species of *Grewia* (Tiliaceae)" [Verwandtschaftsverhältnisse und Verbreitung der afrikanischen *Grewia*-Arten].

Since there were no openings at the Museum at the time, he was able to remain only for a year as an assistant. From 1911 to 1921 he served as assistant at the Botanical Institute of the Agricultural High School in Berlin. In spite of these quite different duties, he remained true to taxonomy and published during this time a number of taxonomic works dealing with the Tiliaceae and Moraceae. The year 1922 brought him the opportunity to return to Berlin-Dahlem as curator of the Botanical Museum.

Toward 1925, Professor Burret was induced by the second director of the Museum, Ludwig Diels, to occupy himself with the palms. The palms, though not selected from special preference, were the principal part of his scholarly occupation for over thirty years. His researches on the palms have become fundamental for our knowledge of this family today. On the basis of the rich collections of the Botanical Museum



Fig. 51. Professor Max Burret, a recent photograph taken in the Museum at Berlin.

and the flow of incoming collections from the tropics, Dr. Burret was able to publish over 100 palm studies; monographic accounts of a number of genera, new genera, and many new species.

Besides general botanical field trips in the Mediterranean region, to Bosnia and Herzegovina, he was able to study palms on the spot in their native habitats on two extensive trips in the tropics. At the invitation of the Brazilian government, he traveled for research purposes in Brazil from October, 1937 until February, 1938 and, at an English invitation, through Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula, Java and Sumatra, from December, 1938 until July, 1939. Unfortunately the war prevented his undertaking a

third long journey of botanical investigation in the South Seas jointly with some American scientists on a special ship. From all his trips, Professor Burret brought back large collections of palms for study at Berlin.

The war struck still a further blow. In a bomb attack of March, 1943, a part of the extensive palm collection was burned as well as the major part of a manuscript for *Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilién*. Despite his attempts, he was unable to put the manuscript together again, chiefly because the great library of the Museum was also destroyed. Thus, after the war, he published only a review of the palms in the form of keys to the genera.

In recognition of his special distinction in the investigation of the palms, the Fairchild Tropical Garden presented him with its Founder's Medal in this year of his 75th birthday. All those who know him well admire his vigor and freshness and wish that his health, which has been poor recently, may be restored so that he may be permitted to spend his next years pleasantly.

PALM PUBLICATIONS BY DR. MAX BURRET

1. Eine neue Palmengattung von den Molukken [A new palm genus from the Moluccas]. *Notizblatt** 10:198-201. 1927.
2. Über *Ptychosperma elegans* (R. Br.) Bl. *op. cit.* 202-206.
3. Eine neue Art der Palmengattung *Pelagodoxa* Becc. aus der Südsee [A new species of *Pelagodoxa* from the South Seas]. *op. cit.* 286-288. 1928.
4. Die Palmengattungen *Oenocarpus* Mart. und *Jessenia* Karst., nebst Bemerkungen zu *Archontophoenix* H. Wendl. et Drude (einschl. *Loroma* O. F. Cook) [The genera *Oenocarpus* and *Jessenia* with remarks on *Archontophoenix* (including *Loroma*)]. *op. cit.* 291-312.
5. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Palmen von Malesia, Papua und der Südsee [Contributions to knowledge of the palms of Malesia, Papua, and the South Seas]. *Rep. Spec. Nov.* 24: 253-296. 1928.
6. Die Palmengattung *Manicaria* Gaertn. *Notizblatt* 10: 389-394. 1928.
7. Die Palmengattungen *Chelyocarpus* Dammer und *Tessmanniophoenix* Burret nov. gen. *op. cit.* 394-401.
8. Eine neue *Copernicia*-Art aus Paraguay [A new species of *Copernicia* from Paraguay]. *op. cit.* 402-404.
9. Die Palmengattungen *Orbignya*, *Attalea*, *Scheelea* und *Maximiliana*. *op. cit.* 493-543, 651-701. 1929.
10. Neue und kritische Arten der Palmengattung *Mauritia* [New and critical species of *Mauritia*]. *op. cit.* 565-574.
11. *Palmae Cubenses et Domingenses* a cl. E. L. Ekman 1914-1928 lectae [Palms of Cuba and the Dominican Republic collected by E. L. Ekman 1914-1928]. *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, ser. 3, 6(7): 3-28. 1929.
12. *Lepidocaryum Tessmannii* Burret nov. spec. *Notizblatt* 10: 771. 1929.
13. Die Gattung *Euterpe* Gaertn. *Botanische Jahrbücher* 63: 49-76. 1929.
14. Die Heimat von *Astrocaryum rostratum* Hook. f. [The native country of *Astrocaryum rostratum*]. *Notizblatt* 10: 837-838, 1929.
15. Zur Gattung *Jessenia* Karst. *op. cit.* 839-84.
16. Die Gattung *Ceroxylon* Humb. et Bonpl. *op. cit.* 841-854.
17. Die Gattung *Hyospathe* Mart. *op. cit.* 854-859.

**Notizblatt*=*Notizblatt des Botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin-Dahlem*, changed in 1953 to *Willdenowia*; *Rep. Spec. Nov.*=*Repertorium Specierum Novarum Regni Vegetabilis*. [Ed. note: titles have been translated except when they are repeated, when they concern a single species, or when they are of generic studies (*Palmengattung* = palm genus)].

18. Geonomeae americanae [American Geonomeae]. *Botanische Jahrbücher* 63: 123-270. 1930.
19. *Calamus rhabdocladus* n. sp.; *Rhapis gracilis* n. sp.; *Pinanga Sini* n. sp. in Diels, *Miscellanea sinensis* III. *Notizblatt* 10: 882-884. 1930.
20. Iriarteae. *op. cit.* 918-942.
21. Palmae novae Luetzelburgianae [New palms collected by Luetzelburg]. *op. cit.* 1013-1026. 1930.
22. Über *Leopoldinia piassaba* Wallace, die Stammfanzle der Pará-Piassave [On *Leopoldinia piassaba*, the source of Pará piassava]. *op. cit.* 1027-1028.
23. *Butia microspadix* Burret n. sp. *op. cit.* 1050-1051.
24. Palmae novae austroamericanae [New South American palms]. *op. cit.* 11: 1-19. 1930.
25. Eine neue Palmengattung aus Südamerika [A new genus from South America (*Parajubaea*)]. *op. cit.* 48-51.
26. Palmae novae austroamericanae II. *op. cit.* 199-203, 1931.
27. Palmae gerontogae [Palms of the Old World]. *op. cit.* 204-207.
28. *Calamus melanochrous* n. sp. in Diels, *Miscellanea sinensis* IV. *op. cit.* 208-209.
29. Palmae in Gleason, Botanical Results of the Tyler-Duida Expedition. *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 58: 318-320. 1931.
30. Palmae Hoppianae novae vel criticae [New or critical palms collected by Hopp]. *Notizblatt* 11: 231-236. 1931.
31. Four new palms collected in the territory of Papua (British New Guinea) by L. J. Brass. *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 12: 264-269. 1931.
32. Palmae neogae [New World Palms]. *Notizblatt* 11: 313-327. 1932.
33. Palmae neogae II. *op. cit.* 499-501.
34. Die Palmengattungen *Reinhardtia* Liebm. und *Malortiea* H. Wendl. *op. cit.* 551-556.
35. Die Palmengattungen *Martinezia* und *Aiphanes*. *op. cit.* 557-577.
36. Die Palmengattungen *Kajewskia* Guillaumin und *Carpoxyton* Wendl. et Drude von der Insel Aneityum (Neu-Hebriden) [The genera *Kajewskia* and *Carpoxyton* of Aneityum Island, New Hebrides]. *op. cit.* 578.
37. *Attalea cohune* Mart. wirklich eine *Orbignya* [*Attalea cohune* truly an *Orbignya*]. *op. cit.* 688-690.
38. Palmae in Cufodontis, Ergebnisse der Österreichischen biologischen Costa-Rica-Expedition 1930. *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* 46: 228-230. 1933.
39. *Bactris cohune* S. Watson = *Astrocaryum mexicanum* Liebm. *Rep. Spec. Nov.* 32: 98-99, 1933.
40. Über die Verbreitung von *Sabal mauritiiformis* (Karst.) Griseb. et H. Wendl. und andere Arten von *Sabal* [On the distribution of *Sabal mauritiiformis* and other species of *Sabal*]. *op. cit.* 100-101.
41. Palmae neogae III. *op. cit.* 102-115.
42. Palmae gerontogae II. *op. cit.* 115-117.
43. Neue Palmen aus Neuguinea [New palms from New Guinea]. *Notizblatt* 11: 704-713. 1933.
44. *Chamaedorea* Willd. und verwandte Palmengattungen [*Chamaedorea* and related genera]. *op. cit.* 724-768.
45. Palmae neogae IV. *op. cit.* 857-866.
46. *Schippia*, eine neue Palmengattung aus Britisch Honduras [*Schippia* a new genus from British Honduras]. *op. cit.* 867-869.
47. Zwei kultivierte *Chamaedorea*-Arten wildwachsend wiedergefunden [Two cultivated species of *Chamaedorea* found again growing wild]. *op. cit.* 870-871.
48. Palmae neogae V. *op. cit.* 1037-1050. 1934.

49. *Bactris* und verwandte Palmengattungen [*Bactris* and related genera]. *Rep. Spec. Nov.* 34: 167-184. 1933; 185-253. 1934.
50. Die Palmengattung *Astrocaryum* G. F. W. Meyer. *op. cit.* 35: 114-158. 1934.
51. *Palmae neogaeae* VI. *Notizblatt* 12: 42-44. 1934.
52. *Palmae gerontogaeae* III. *op. cit.* 44-46.
53. *Palmae neogaeae* VII. *op. cit.* 151-159.
54. Die Palmengattung *Desmoncus* Mart. *Rep. Spec. Nov.* 36: 197-221. 1934.
55. Eine kultivierte *Chamaedorea*-Art wildwachsen wiedergefunden [A cultivated species of *Chamaedorea* found again growing wild]. *Notizblatt* 12: 302-303. 1935.
56. *Palmae neogaeae* VIII. *op. cit.* 303-305.
57. Zwei neue *Raphia*-Arten [Two new species of *Raphia*]. *op. cit.* 305-308.
58. Neue Palmen aus Neuguinea II. *op. cit.* 309-348.
59. New Palms from Fiji. *Bernice P. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* 11(4): 3-14. 1935.
60. *Palmae gerontogaeae* IV. *Notizblatt* 12: 590-602. 1935.
61. Die Palmengattungen *Mauritia* L. f. und *Mauritiella* Burret nov. gen. *op. cit.* 605-611.
62. *Palmae neogaeae* IX. *op. cit.* 612-625.
63. Neue Palmen aus Neuguinea III. *op. cit.* 13: 65-101. 1936.
64. *Palmae gerontogaeae* V. *op. cit.* 185-200.
65. Die Palmengattung *Gronophyllum* Scheff. *op. cit.* 200-205.
66. Die Palmengattungen *Nengella* Becc. und *Leptophoenix* Becc. *op. cit.* 312-317.
67. Neue Palmen aus Neuguinea IV. *op. cit.* 317-332.
68. Die Palmengattung *Morenia* R. et P. *op. cit.* 332-339.
69. *Palmae neogaeae* X. *op. cit.* 339-347.
70. *Palmae gerontogaeae* VI. *op. cit.* 347-348.
71. *Ptychosperma Kerstenianum*, eine verkannte Gartenpalme [*Ptychosperma Kerstenianum*, a misunderstood garden palm]. *op. cit.* 384-385.
72. *Palmae* in A. C. Smith, Fijian Plant Studies, *Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin* 141: 13-14. 1936.
73. Neue Palmen aus Neuguinea V. *Notizblatt* 13: 468-475. 1937.
74. Über die bisher unbekannte Heimat einer alten Gartenpalme, *Scheelea osmantha* B. R. [On the hitherto unknown native place of an old garden palm, *Scheelea osmantha*]. *op. cit.* 476-477.
75. *Palmae neogaeae* XI. *op. cit.* 478-481.
76. Die Palmengattungen *Hydriastele* Wendl. et Drude und *Adelonenga* Becc. *op. cit.* 482-487.
77. *Palmae* in Burret, *Plantae Duqueanae*. *op. cit.* 489-495.
78. *Palmae chinenses* [Chinese palms]. *op. cit.* 582-606.
79. Die Palmengattung *Syagrus*. *op. cit.* 677-696.
80. Eine interessante neue *Hyospathe*-Art von Venezuela [An interesting new species of *Hyospathe* from Venezuela]. *op. cit.* 14: 137-138. 1938.
81. *Palmae Brasilienses* [Brazilian palms]. *op. cit.* 231-260.
82. *Palmae Kuhlmannianae Amazonicae* [Kuhlmann palms from the Amazon]. *op. cit.* 261-268.
83. Eine neue interessante *Chamaedorea*-Art aus Mexico [An interesting new species of *Chamaedorea* from Mexico]. *op. cit.* 268-269.
84. *Palmae* in Diels, Neue Arten aus Ecuador II. *op. cit.* 324-329. 1939.
85. Brasilianische Palmen als Nutzpflanzen [Brazilian palms as useful plants]. *Der Tropenpflanzer* 41: 477-502. 1938.

86. Afrikanische Palmen als Nutzpflanzen [African palms as useful plants]. *op. cit.* 42: 185-211. 1939.
87. Palmae gesammelt in Neu Guinea von L. J. Brass [Palms collected in New Guinea by L. J. Brass]. *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 20: 187-212. 1939.
88. Palmen von A. C. Smith aus Britisch Guayana [Palms of A. C. Smith from British Guiana]. *Notizblatt* 15: 1-6. 1940.
89. Neue Palmen aus Neuguinea VI. *op. cit.* 7-12.
90. Palmae in Diels, Neue Arten aus Ecuador III. *op. cit.* 23-28.
91. Palmen von der Südsee aus der Sammlung des Bernice P. Bishop Museums, Honolulu, Hawaii [Palms of the South Seas from the collections of the Bishop Museum] *op. cit.* 85-93.
92. Eine zweite Arte der Palmengattung *Chuniophoenix* und eine neue *Licuala* aus Tonkin [A second species of *Chuniophoenix* and a new *Licuala* from Tonkin]. *op. cit.* 97-99.
93. Palmae neogae XII. *op. cit.* 99-108.
94. Eine neue Art der bisher monotypischen Gattung *Acanthococos* B. R. in Mattogrosso Gefunden [A new species of the hitherto monotypic genus *Acanthococos* found in Matto Grosso]. *op. cit.* 109-110.
95. Um caso de Hibridação entre *Arecastrum Romanzoffianum* e *Butia capitata* [A case of hybridization between *Arecastrum Romanzoffianum* and *Butia capitata*]. *Rodriguésia* 4(13): 277. 1940.
96. Indomalayische Palmen [Indomalayan palms]. *Notizblatt* 15: 164-210. 1940.
97. Interessante Palmen aus dem Botanischen Garten Buitenzorg [Interesting palms from the Buitenzorg Botanical Garden]. *op. cit.* 210-213.
98. Eine neue Palmengattung von der malayischen Halbinsel [A new genus of palms from the Malay Peninsula]. *op. cit.* 316-318. 1941.
99. Bemerkungen zur Palmengattung *Livistona* R. Brown [Remarks on the genus *Livistona*]. *op. cit.* 319-327.
100. Beiträge zur Palmengattung *Licuala* Wurm [Contributions to the genus *Licuala*]. *op. cit.* 327-336.
101. Die Gattung *Tessmanniodoxa* nov. gen. *op. cit.* 336-338.
102. Eine neue Palme aus Zentralamerika: *Sabal nematoclada* [A new palm from Central America: *Sabal nematoclada*]. *Rep. Spec. Nov.* 48: 256-257. 1940.
103. Neue Palmen aus der Gruppe der Lepidocaryoideae [New palms in the Lepidocaryoideae] *Notizblatt* 15: 728-755. 1942.
104. Zur Palmengattung *Sagus* Gaertn. *op. cit.* 756.
105. Die Palmen Arabiens [The Arabian palms]. *Botanische Jahrbücher* 73: 145-190. 1943.
106. Neue Palmen aus der Gruppe der Lepidocaryoideae II. *Notizblatt* 15: 797-819. 1943.
107. Kritische Bemerkungen zu einigen Palmengattungen [Critical remarks on some genera of palms]. *Willdenowia* 1: 57-58. 1953.
108. Systematische Übersicht über die Gruppen der Palmen [A systematic review of the groups of palms]. *op. cit.* 59-74.
109. (with Eva Potztal) Bemerkungen zu einigen Palmengattungen [Remarks on some palm genera]. *op. cit.* 348-349.
110. (with Eva Potztal) Systematische Übersicht über die Palmen (continuation) *op. cit.* 350-385. 1956.
111. (with Eva Potztal) *Microcoelum*, eine neue Palmengattung (Cocoidae) [*Microcoelum*, a new genus of palms]. *op. cit.* 386-388.
112. (with Eva Potztal) Bemerkungen zu den Palmengattungen *Liberbaileya*, *Maxburretia* und *Symphyogyne* [Remarks on the genera *Liberbaileya*, *Maxburretia*, and *Symphyogyne*]. *op. cit.* 529-530.