



Fig. 65. *Trachycarpus Fortunei* at Hampton, Virginia.

all the way to Florida is a freeze after a rain — that is a change from rain to sleet resulting in freezing in the palm head. I have seen this happen to palms farther south. These [his specimens of *Trachycarpus*] never have frozen in the top.”

From the above we can agree with the statement of Mr. James Keenan of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh that *Trachycarpus Fortunei* “can scarcely be called tender.”

Another palm which may approach the hardiness of the windmill palm is the South American *Butia capitata* which I have seen growing at not-too-great-a-distance south of Norfolk in coastal Virginia and North Carolina. At Savannah, Georgia, at the USDA's Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Station, this species of *Butia* has withstood temperatures of 11° F. It is of interest to note that in both *Trachycarpus* and *Butia* the palm trunk is well protected. In the case of *Trachycarpus* there is a heavy mat of hairs, while in *Butia* the mass of old leaf stubs may serve the same purpose. It may well be

that this sort of natural protection helps the species to exist during the short periods of lethal colds which they must occasionally endure at their northern limits of range.

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Howeia* (hów ee a) was proposed by Beccari for the genus of palms that includes the common florist's palms known in the trade as *Kentia*. The name comes from that of the island on which they are native—Lord Howe Island off the coast of Australia 435 miles northeast of Sydney. The name is often spelled *Howea* but, although Beccari himself used the latter version at times, the original spelling should be followed.

*Nypa* (née pa) is a vernacular name in the Moluccas carried over into the technical name. This spelling was used by Wurmb who first described the genus. A later spelling, *Nipa*, used by Thunberg is frequently but incorrectly used.

*Ptychosperma* (tie ko spér ma) comes from the Greek words *ptyx* (a fold or

a cleft) and *sperma* (a seed). It is a most apt name since the seeds of the genus are longitudinally grooved.

*Actinophloeus* (ak tin o flée us) is also from the Greek. *Aktis* means "a ray" and *phloios* means "the bark of trees" or "a husk" or "an enclosing membrane." Beccari did not explain the derivation of the name but since he used it first for a subgenus (spelled *Actynophloeus*) in *Drymophloeus* which differed from the true *Drymophloeus* in grooved rather than rounded seeds, it is possible that the rays or arms of the seed projecting into the fruit coat inspired the name. The name was modified to *Actinophloeus* for the genus. Recent students of palms unite *Actinophloeus* with *Ptychosperma* using the latter, older name.

*Ponapea* (po na pée a), another synonym of *Ptychosperma*, is derived from Ponape, an island in the Carolines.

*Drymophloeus* (dry mo flée us) from the Greek *drymos* (a wood) and *phloios* (bark) was not explained by Zippelius who proposed the name.

#### PALM LITERATURE

(Continued from page 138)

on palms considers about 20 genera useful for edible fruit, palm wine, cabbage, starch, oil, salt, thatch, basketry, cord, wooden objects, beads and ornaments.]

Markley, Klare S., Caranday—a Source of Palm Wax. *op. cit.* 9: 39-52. 1955. [An unexploited source of hard vegetable wax from *Copernicia* in Paraguay is considered with distribution map, comparison of species, yield and quality of wax, prospects for exploitation.]

Markley, Klare S., Mbocayá or Paraguay Cocopalm — an Important

Source of Oil. *op. cit.* 10: 3-32. 1956. [A full discussion of *Acrocomia Totai* as a source of oil with description, notes on distribution, yields, processing, and analysis of pulp and kernel oil.]

Markley, Klare S., Fat and Oil Resources and Industry of Brazil. *op. cit.* 11: 91-125. 1957. [Contains paragraphs on *Orbignya*, *Astrocaryum*, *Cocos*, *Elaeis*, *Jessenia*, *Syagrus*.]

Taube, Edward, Carnuba Wax—Product of a Brazilian Palm. *op. cit.* 6: 379-401. 1952. [A discussion of *Copernicia cerifera* and its importance as a source of wax, with distribution, description, processing data, uses and properties.]

Another journal, *Botanical Museum Leaflets*, published by Harvard University also includes some articles on economic plants. The following will interest the student of palms.

Gowda, M., The Story of Pan Chewing in India. *Botanical Museum Leaflets* 14: 181-214. 1951. [The betel nut, *Areca Cathecu*, as used in India is treated fully with a description of the palm, the associated *Piper Beile* whose leaf is chewed with the *Areca*, the harvesting and preparation of fruits, utilization of the fruit in non-habitual and habitual chewing, ceremonial and medicinal manners, importance of the palm, and a list of plants associated with pan chewing.]

Standley, Paul C. & Steyermark, Julian A., Flora of Guatemala, *Fieldiana: Botany*, volume 24, part I. Pages 196-299 of this volume, published by the Chicago Natural History Museum on August 29, 1958, contain a treatment of palms native in Guatemala and British Honduras with full descriptions, keys, and line drawings illustrating one or more species in many genera.