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and Improved Varieties* by
Roland Bourdeix, Jean Louis
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p. 99.





NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

As this issue goes to press, the manuscript of the second edition of *Genera Palmarum* has just been completed and submitted to the publishers. There are a few loose ends that still need to be finished, but the long slog to complete this new edition is for the most part over. As in the first edition, all palm genera worldwide are covered. The new edition, however, should look very different from the first, being filled with color photographs throughout the book, and the arrangement of genera reflects the latest phylogenetic work based on DNA analyses. In places it is very different from the arrangement in the first edition. It is expected to take about 12 months for the book to appear, and it is hoped that there will be a pre-publication sale of the book with substantial savings for the purchaser.

The final onslaught on the book was complicated by the discovery in Madagascar of a remarkable new palm. Those of you who visit PalmTalk on the IPS website will be aware of the extraordinary story of a massive hapaxanthic fan palm in the northwest of the island. The photographs taken by Xavier Metz and posted by Bruno Leroy on the website showed a palm resembling *Corypha*. Once scientific material collected by Mijoro Rakotoarinivo arrived in Kew, the affinities

with *Corypha* were shown to be quite spurious and that the palm is without doubt a new genus! A mad scramble ensued as a description was hurriedly written, and many of the genera in *Genera Palmarum* renumbered in order to slip the new genus into the sequence. Currently the palm is being studied in more detail to form the basis of a separate scientific paper in which the palm will be described and named. This paper will, with luck, be published and the name validated before *Genera Palmarum Ed. 2* appears. What has come out really strongly from the whole incident is the great value of the PalmTalk message board!

A small corrigendum courtesy of Dr. William J. Baker of Kew: In a book review published in the last issue of PALMS, one of us (SZ) noted that the Seychelles, with six endemic genera, must hold the record for the greatest number of endemic genera per square kilometer, a calculated value of one genus per 75 km². Dr. Baker reminds us that Lord Howe Island, which is only 12 km², is home to three endemic genera (*Howea*, *Hedyscepe* and *Lepidorrhachis*), thus legitimately claiming the title for highest density of endemic genera.

THE EDITORS