

CONTENTS

- 115 Boron Deficiency Symptoms in Palms
T.K. BROCHAT
-
- 127 What's in the Pack? Palm Potpourri Ingredients
F.E.M. COOK
-
- 139 The Stained-Glass Palm, *Geonoma epetiolata*
M.A. BLANCO & S. MARTÉN-RODRÍGUEZ
-
- 147 Evaluating *Chamaedorea alternans*
C. BACON
-
- 151 Palm Research in 2006
W.J. BAKER
-



BACK COVER

Dead leaves and branches often accumulate among the leaf bases of *Geonoma epetiolata*. See article by Blanco & Martén-Rodríguez, p. 137.

Features

News from the World of Palms	108
Growing Palms	109
Classifieds	126
Advertisements	126, 138



The mottled leaves of *Geonoma epetiolata* make it one of the most ornamental species in the genus. See article by Blanco and Martén-Rodríguez, page 139.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

The Seventh Annual meeting of the European Network of Palm Scientists (EUNOPS) was held 2–3 June 2007 in Paris, hosted by Dr. Sophie Nadot. The meetings were based in the elegant Amphithéâtre Rouelle of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, situated in the Jardin des Plantes. Palm scientists from throughout Europe presented papers ranging over subjects from taxonomy and ecology to ethnobotany and the great herbarium collections of Odoardo Beccari. The meeting ended with a presentation by Soraya Villalba and a long discussion on the EDIT project. Through a European Union network of European taxonomic establishments known as EDIT (the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy), a project to place palm taxonomic information on the web has been initiated. The work is being coordinated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with the collaboration of palm experts from Europe and beyond. The aim of the project is to bring taxonomic information together and deliver it through one portal. It also aims to provide a virtual focus for collaboration among palm scientists and a mechanism for new palm taxonomic research to become available more rapidly in the future. The funding for EDIT runs until 2011. A prototype portal is available at www.palmweb.org that can provide nomenclature, taxonomic descriptions and associated data such as ecology and distribution, as well as images. Currently,

Palmweb contains primarily taxonomic content from the Palms of Madagascar. In future, the portal will contain a much wider range of taxonomic content as well as linkages to other on-line sources.

Researchers at the University of Florida have published a paper in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* (del Pozo-Insfran et al. 2006. 54: 1222–1229.) that reported on the beneficial effects of açai fruit (*Euterpe oleracea*) to health. In this initial study the authors demonstrated that antioxidants in the fruit pulp destroyed human cancer cells *in vitro*. Specifically, extracts triggered an 86% self-destruct response in leukemia cells. The paper cautioned that the study did not demonstrate that açai could prevent leukemia in humans, but nevertheless compounds that have good activity against cancer cells in the laboratory are likely to have beneficial effects in human bodies.

We are pleased to note the formation of the Associação Brasileira dos Amigos das Palmeiras (Brazilian Association of Friends of the Palms), a group to promote palm awareness and horticulture in Brazil. The organization is the first of its kind in Brazil, and we hope it will bring more palms to the attention of the Brazilian people. The organization has a web site, www.amigosdaspalmeiras.org, in Portuguese, French and English.

THE EDITORS