



47. *Linospadix monostachya* in Botanic Garden, Sydney, Australia. Photograph by W. H. Hodge.

placed in a greenhouse sweat-box under temperatures ranging from 75°-95°F., required 142 days to germinate.

This small palm should be a worthwhile addition for shady or partially shaded gardens in the tropics or sub-tropics. In this country it should be tested in those areas of sub-tropical Florida and southern California which are relatively or completely frost-free. A healthy lot of young seedlings is presently ready for test at the Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami while similar plants raised in the experimental greenhouse range at Longwood Gardens will, it is hoped, prove the merit of *Linospadix monostachya* as a new palm subject for conservatory culture.

## Foster Botanical Garden

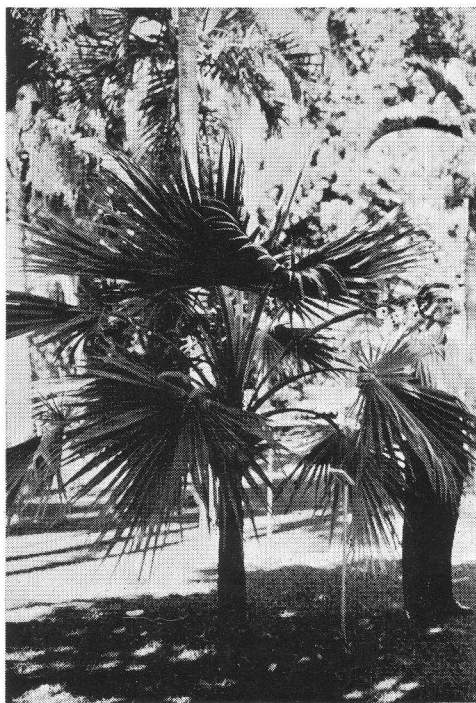
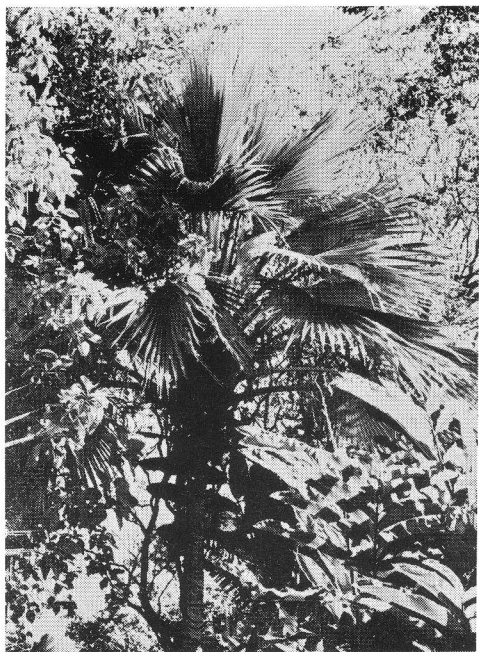
PAUL R. WEISSICH

In 1855 William Hillebrand, the German-born physician to the Hawaiian royal family, purchased a four-acre piece of property just two blocks from modern downtown Honolulu, Hawaii, and began the plantings that were to become the nucleus of Foster Botanical Garden. The garden, bequeathed to the City and County of Honolulu in 1930 by Mrs. Mary Foster, then owner, now comprises some sixteen acres. The area includes a scenic portion of Nuuanu Stream and the beautiful Waikahalulu Falls once a garden spot planted in honor of Queen Liliuokalani.

The palm collection at Foster Botanical Garden includes, a hundred and eleven species in fifty-two genera. The palms are not concentrated in any one planting but are spread throughout the garden wherever growth conditions are optimum. Special attention has been given the native species of *Pritchardia*. It is interesting to note that the specimen of *Pritchardia macrocarpa* is approximately a hundred years old and was undoubtedly one of the first subjects to be planted by Dr. Hillebrand.

At the present time the Foster Botanical Garden is host to some ninety thousand visitors a year. The Garden operates a trial planting program in cooperation with forty private gardens on Oahu. These gardens are located at various elevations and enjoy widely varying temperatures, rainfall, soils, and exposures to sun, wind, and salt spray. An active seed exchange program is carried on with botanic gardens and private individuals all over the tropics. Top priority in the new capital improvement program is the construction of fa-

48. Foster Botanical Garden, Honolulu, Hawaii. *Pritchardia arecina*, 23 years old (upper left); *P. Hillebrandii*, 100 years old (upper right); *P. remota*, 27 years old (lower left); *P. macrocarpa*, 100 years old (lower right). Photographs by Paul R. Weissich.



cilities that will lead to a public education department, thus greatly increasing

the capacity of Foster Botanical Garden for living community service.

## On the Trail of the Lonesome Palms

### *A Jeep Trip in Northwestern Mexico*

ROBERT H. NELSON

*San Isidro, California*

In January and February of 1961 I made an overland trip with Dent Smith starting from San Diego, California, down into northwestern Mexico, throughout the length of Baja California, and then, after ferrying across the Gulf of California, through sections of Sinaloa, Nayarit and finally Sonora. This excursion, which lasted one month, was undertaken partly to see the palms where any existed and partly just to see the country.

Baja California was the most challenging part of the trip because of the truly infernal trails miscalled roads, the sparsely populated country and the total lack, usually, of communications and supplies. To deal with those conditions we went equipped with extra supplies of gasoline and water, sleeping bags, and American groceries—till they gave out. Expressly for this trip, moreover, I acquired a new Willys jeep station wagon with six-cylinder engine and four-wheel drive. It never failed us in mire, jagged rocks, mile-deep ruts or in any of the other hurdles along the route.

Baja is that long lanky finger of land pointing southeast from the U. S. border, with the Pacific to the west and the Gulf of California separating it from mainland Mexico to the east. It is twice as long as the Florida peninsula and arid in varying degree. The distance from San Diego to the tip, Cabo San Lucas, came to something over 1200 miles by the route we took. At that point we were in the tropics, having crossed Cancer

about 65 miles south of La Paz. Civilization is represented in Baja by a few towns and villages spaced at distances made immense by the lack of good roads. The vast voids are made up of plains, valleys, canyons, mountains and seacoasts populated chiefly by coyotes and jack rabbits, and thousands of square miles are dominated by cardon cactus, weird idrias, elephant trees and other "impossible" plants.

During the month-long trip both in Baja and on the mainland we encountered and photographed eleven, or possibly thirteen, species of palms as they are to be found in their native ranges in northwestern Mexico. We saw other palms along the way, but these were introduced and I will try to limit myself to the native species. Other plant families are abundantly represented, both on the Baja peninsula and on the mainland. Many are extremely interesting as well as very beautiful and curious, but I must ignore these at this time.

Dent arrived here in California the evening of January 18th, and the 19th was a day of preparation for the first part of the trip. We were about to drive from San Diego to La Paz, Baja California, and this requires more than one day of preparation, but last-minute details took almost all day to complete. The following morning we crossed the border and headed south.

It was during the third day of driving that we caught sight of the first palms. These are to be found growing in a dry