

place the nuts on an up-turned axehead and beat them into splinters with a piece of hardwood. Thus they remove the kernels, 80,000 tons of them a year.

Another story worth telling is that of the furor caused during Franklin D. Roosevelt's second presidential campaign. The subject was *babassú*. Roosevelt, in his Good Neighbor Policy, had signed an agreement with Brazil (in 1935) to allow certain vegetable oil-

seeds, like *babassu*, to enter the U.S.A. free of the three-cents tax levied on copra. This brought a storm of protest from the Middle West. Governor Landon, the Republican candidate and Roosevelt's opponent, made the most of the situation and Republican newspapers published, with big headlines, articles with captions such as "What is babassu?" So *babassú* played a part in U.S. politics, even in a presidential election.

Allagoptera And Diplothemium

HAROLD E. MOORE, JR.

The small palm genus *Diplothemium* (about five species) occurs in Brazil and Paraguay. It was described by Martius in 1824 and was elaborated by him in 1826 to include four species, one of which, *D. caudescens*, has since been separated as *Polyandrococos caudescens* (Martius) Barbosa Rodrigues. Still later, in 1845, Martius described a fifth species (since variously placed in *Jubaea*, *Polyandrococos* and *Parajubaea*) and equated *Diplothemium* with *Allagoptera* which had been described in 1821.

Although the priority of *Allagoptera* was thus made clear over a century ago, the name *Diplothemium* has been used by most students of palms to the present. Some may argue that long usage would suggest attempting to conserve the name *Diplothemium* despite its few species and relative unimportance. But even if *Diplothemium* were conserved, an earlier epithet is required for one of the two better known species. Thus adherence to the rule of priority and the use of *Allagoptera* seems the better solution, especially in view of the need for careful study of the relationship between the genus and *Syagrus*. Since at least one species appears to have some into culti-

vation outside botanical gardens recently, it may be helpful to point out the correct names to be used at present under the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (1956) and to comment briefly on these names.

Allagoptera was described by C. G. Nees in a list of corrections and additions following the appendix to the second volume of Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied's *Reise nach Brasilien*, an account of the Prince's travels in Brasil during 1815, 1816, and 1817. According to *Isis von Oken* 1821: 578, 1821, this volume appeared at Easter, 1821 [April 22, 1821]. Essentially the same description appeared shortly thereafter in the botanical periodical *Flora* for May 21, 1821. The genus and its sole species, *Allagoptera pumila* Nees, were based on specimens of a small palm found by Prince Maximilian either behind the sand dunes on the coast between Sagoarema [Saquarema] and the *fazenda* of Pitanga on the way from Rio de Janeiro to Cabo Frio, or in a similar situation farther north between Vitoria and Rio Doce. This little palm was known locally as *cocos de guriri* or *pissandó* at the first place mentioned,

and as such it was briefly described without formal naming on page 67 of the first volume of the *Reise*. It seems less likely that specimens were actually obtained at the second place mentioned (*Reise* 1: 201) between the *quartel* of Riacho and Rio Doço.

Martius referred the *cocos de guriri* or *pissandó* mentioned by Prince Maximilian in volume one of his *Reise* to *Diplothemium campestre*, a species generally of inland and more elevated regions, with six to ten stamens (according to Martius) and also known as *guriri*. From his comments, it seems likely that Martius had not seen actual specimens of Maximilian's *guriri* when he wrote though he was personally familiar with *D. campestre*, for he mentioned only that the Prince had observed the *guriri* and he erred slightly in the locality.

Nees, however, noted that *Allagoptera pumila* had 14 stamens in the male flowers and we know that the species was a coastal one from near Rio de Janeiro. The locality and number of stamens identify *Allagoptera pumila* with *Cocos arenaria* (also known as *coqueiro de guriri*) described by Gomes in 1812 as a palm from Rio de Janeiro with 10-19 stamens. This last species was cited by name as a synonym of Martius' *Diplothemium littorale* which was, in turn, united by H. Wendland and by O. Drude with *Diplothemium maritimum*, a species originally known to Martius only from fruiting material.

It seems evident that Martius, presumably acquainted only with the informal description of *guriri* in volume 1 of Maximilian's *Reise* and not with specimens nor with the formal description of *Allagoptera pumila*, erred in 1826 when he referred the palm to his *Diplothemium campestre* as also he erred, by today's rules of nomenclature, in not

accepting Gomes earlier epithet *arenaria* in place of *littorale*.

Essential synonymy is listed below for the species of *Allagoptera*. One variety (*Glaziovii*) described under *Diplothemium campestre*, is not transferred as it seems possibly no more than a variant of the typical variety. Two species described by Barbosa Rodrigues in *Diplothemium* are transferred to complete the listing. The most recent summary of species is that of Barbosa Rodrigues (as *Diplothemium*) in his *Sertum Palmarum Brasiliensium* 1: 116-120, 1903. *Allagoptera arenaria* and *A. campestris*, the two species most likely to be encountered in cultivation, are distinguished as follows:

Stamens in male flowers 10-16;
fruit covered with brown woolly
scales except for the nude tip.

A. arenaria

Stamens in male flowers 6-9 (ac-
cording to Drude); fruit lack-
ing a prominent cover of scales.

A. campestris

ALLAGOPTERA C. G. Ness in Wied-Neuwied, *Reise nach Brasilien* 2: 335. Apr. 1821; et in *Flora* 4: 296. 21 Mai 1821.

Diplothemium Martius, *Palmarum Familia* 20. Apr. 1824; et *Historia Naturalis Palmarum* 2: 107. 1826; 3: 293. 1845.

A. Anisitsii (Barbosa Rodrigues) H. E. Moore, tr. nov.

Diplothemium Anisitsii Barbosa Rodrigues, *Palmae Novae Paraguayenses* 16. 1899 ('Anisitzii') corrected in *Sertum Palmarum Brasiliensium* 1: 119-120. 1903.

A. arenaria (Gomes) O. Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 726. 1891.
Cocos arenaria Gomes, in *Memorias da Academia Real das Sciencias de Lisboa* 3(1): *Memorias dos*

Correspondentes, 61. 1812 ('arenarius').

Diplothemium arenarium (Gomes Vasconcellos & Franco, in *Portugaliae Acta Biologica*, ser. B, 2: 412. 1948.

Allagoptera pumila C. G. Nees in Wied-Neuwied, *Reise nach Brasilien* 2: 335. Apr. 1821; et in *Flora* 4: 296. 21 Mai 1821.

Diplothemium littorale Martius, *Historia Naturalis Palmarum* 2: 110. 1826.

Diplothemium maritimum Martius, *Historia Naturalis Palmarum* 2: 108. 1826.

A. campestris (Martius) O. Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 726. 1891.

var. *campestris*

Diplothemium campestre Martius, *Historia Naturalis Palmarum* 2: 109. 1826.

Diplothemium campestre var. *genuinum* Drude in Martius, *Flora Brasiliensis* 3(2): 432. 1881.

Diplothemium campestre var. *Glaziovii* Dammer, in *Botanische Jahrbücher* 31, beiblatt 70: 23. 1902.

var. *Orbigny* (Drude) O. Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 3(3): 322 & 546. 1898.

Diplothemium campestre var. *Orbigny* Drude in Martius, *Flora Brasiliensis* 3(2): 432. 1881.

A. Hassleriana (Barbosa Rodrigues) H. E. Moore, tr. nov.

Diplothemium Hasslerianum Barbosa Rodrigues, *Palmae Hasslerianae Novae* 10. 1900.

A. leucocalyx (Drude) O. Kuntze, *Revisio Generum Plantarum* 2: 726. 1891.

Diplothemium leucocalyx Drude in Martius, *Flora Brasiliensis* 3(2): 431. 1881.

Diplothemium jangadense S. Moore, in *Transactions of the Linnaean Society* (London), ser. 2, 4: 499. 1895.

A NOTE OF CORRECTION

I would like to think of it as a deliberate mistake, designed to catch our readers of PRINCIPES, but the error is quite inadvertent and should be corrected. This is in the "Essay on the Morphology of Palms. V. The Habit of Palms" published in PRINCIPES 5: 83-89. In the illustration of growth habits in palms, Fig. 45, No. 7 is labelled as *Sabal Etonia* whereas it manifestly is wrong. It much better represents *Serenoa repens*, which was the original intention. This was quickly pointed out to me by Dr. L. M. Simonson of Lantana, Florida, for which I am very grateful. I can only plead a mild brainstorm over this mistake, because, as a newcomer to Florida I had earlier this year the pleasure of digging up *Sabal Etonia* and *S. minor* in the company of Dent Smith in Daytona Beach, and observing the peculiar growth habit of these plants. Also I described the unique growth form of *Sabal* in an earlier essay (*Principes* 4: 140-143). May I apologize publicly for this error. I have attached Dr. Simonson's letter.

P. B. TOMLINSON

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LANTANA, FLORIDA

DEAR DR. TOMLINSON:

"Your article in the last number of PRINCIPES on "The Habit of Palms" is very interesting. However, I wish I could show you the growth habit of *Sabal Etonia* of which I have very many native here on my place — there were literally thousands growing on my land when I acquired it. Many have been