

the flora of the island and knew just where the desired species were to be found. Bob also spent some time in Haiti, getting material needed to complete his thesis on *Pseudophoenix*. He promises an article for PRINCIPES as soon as he has had time to study the material collected.

LUCITA H. WAIT

### International Palm Year

Response to Dr. P. B. Tomlinson's proposal concerning an international cooperative effort to measure and record the growth rate of palms has been encouraging. To date, sixty-five persons have indicated willingness to undertake this project. Now that Dr. Tomlinson's instructions have been conveyed via PRINCIPES, April, 1963, it is hoped that all of them will begin to keep records, and that at the end of one or more years some valuable data will have been compiled.

The following persons and institutions have returned the pledge cards:

*Australia*: Mr. Ernest Todd. *Germany*: Städtischer Palmengarten, Frankfurt. *Ghana*: Raymond A. White, Jr.; University of Ghana (Mr. E. R. Vaughan). *India*: National Botanic Gardens, Lucknow (Prof. K. N. Kaul). *Jamaica*: Research Dept., Coconut Industry Board (D. H. Romney). *Japan*: Sadao Sawai, Takao Endo. *Malaya*: Botany Department, University of Malaya (E. A. Turnau). *Mexico*: Finca Experimental La Novia, Tapachula (G.

Ross). *Southern Rhodesia*: Botany Department, University College of Rhodesia & Nyasaland (Prof. A. S. Boughey). *United States: Arizona*: H. G. Yocum; Richard Mayer; A. E. Johnson. *California*: Jack Corbet; County Horticultural Dept., Santa Barbara (H. E. Bauernschmidt); W. J. Dolby; Ernest Eveland; Mr. & Mrs. G. F. Herman; Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino (Myron Kinnach); Los Angeles State & County Arboretum, Arcadia (C. A. Hallberg); W. J. McBride; Otto Martens; L. H. Miller; R. W. Palmer; H. E. Roller; Joe Sullivan; L. F. White. *Florida*: Mrs. G. F. Adams; W. L. Bildingmayer; D. V. Bremerman; K. E. Brown; Mrs. T. C. Buhler; Caribbean Gardens, Naples (J. Kuperberg); A. B. Clemons; Mr. & Mrs. O. W. Doherty; C. F. Dowling, Jr.; Joseph DuMond; G. A. Ellis; R. H. Fackelman; Mr & Mrs. F. C. Flint; R. H. Fuller; F. H. Gick, Jr.; C. R. Grant; Joseph Kellett; H. F. Loomis; J. C. McCurrach; H. J. Mitchell; R. G. Riggle; W. F. Rogers, Jr.; G. B. Scholl; Dent Smith; C. H. Stedman; G. B. Stevenson; E. F. Thayer; University of Florida Sub-Tropical Experiment Station (C. W. Campbell); J. E. Turner; U. A. Young. *Georgia*: G. R. Phillips. *Hawaii*: H. E. Crawford; Mrs. M. Hirose. *Louisiana*: Louisiana Research Foundation (L. A. Simmons). *Texas*: H. T. Hilliard; E. R. Cantwell, Jr. *U. S. Virgin Islands*: Mrs. R. B. Queneau.

### *Latania lontaroides*—the Correct Name for the Red Latan Palm

The period of 1788-1792 was a very active one in botany. Many important books were published, sometimes in several parts, within days or months of each other and exact dates of publication for the parts therefore become important in determining the priority of names. Dr. Frans Stafleu of Utrecht, Netherlands,

has recently published a detailed analysis of publications and dates during this period (*Taxon* 12: 43-87. 1963), an analysis which dates more precisely works in which the red latan palm was named independently three times. It is apparent from this new evidence that *Latania borbonica* does not have real pri-

ority even though the title-page of the volume in which it appears is dated 1789, since the particular part in which the name appears was not published until 1792. An older epithet, *lontaroides*, must now be taken up and the correct name for the red latan becomes *Latania lontaroides*.

The genus *Latania* was described by Commerson in Jussieu's *Genera Plantarum*, a book published on August 4, 1789. No species was named however. Later, within a period of two years, *Latania borbonica*, *Latania Commersonii* and *Cleophora lontaroides* were proposed for the one species then known. *Cleophora* is a direct nomenclatural synonym of *Latania* and the epithet *lontaroides* now clearly has priority. In the following synonymy, the more precise

dates for pages and parts are followed in parentheses by dates which appear on the title-pages of the volume when these differ.

***Latania lontaroides*** (J. Gaertner) H. E. Moore, **tr. nov.**

*Cleophora lontaroides* J. Gaertner, De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum 2 (2) : 185. April-May 1791.

*Latania borbonica* Lamarck, Encyclopédie Méthodique, Botanique 3 (2) : 427. 13 February 1792 ('1789').

*Latania Commersonii* Gmelin in Linnaeus, Systema Naturae, ed. 13, 2 (2) : 1035. April-Oct. 1792 ('1791').

*Latania rubra* N. J. Jacquin, Fragmenta Botanica 13. 1801 ('1800-1809').

H. E. MOORE, JR.

## Palm Chromosomes\*

ROBERT W. READ

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Each and every cell of palms, as in all except the lowest organisms, contains chromosomes, which appear as microscopic rod-shaped structures at the time of cell division. These tiny rod-shaped bodies are the bearers of the genes, which control hereditary characteristics. That is to say, the units of heredity, which control the ultimate size, shape and color of palms, are borne within the body of the chromosomes. The number of chromosomes is usually constant for any given species and in the palm family it is usually constant for each genus. In cells which are not undergoing di-

\*An informal report based on a study of the cytology of palms, which is presently being supported by the National Science Foundation as part of Grant G-18770. The cytological research is being carried out at the Fairchild Tropical Garden by R. W. Read under the direction of Dr. H. E. Moore, Jr. of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium and Dr. C. Uhl, Department of Botany, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

vision, the chromosomes are enclosed within a spherical structure known as the cell nucleus. Chromosomes are often studied during the process of cell division when an individual cell divides into two new daughter cells. During cell division the membrane surrounding the nucleus disappears and the chromosomes round up into their characteristic shapes. Each chromosome has already reproduced itself and the new chromosome halves separate, one half to each of the two daughter nuclei. A wall then forms separating the two new nuclei into two new cells both having identical complements of chromosomes. This process continues in the growing portions of plants as long as they are alive and growing.

There are also places other than the growing points where chromosomes may be observed. One of these is in the pollen