

ture, up to the base of the last branch. The so-called "terminal" inflorescence of *Ancistrophyllum* can be interpreted as a group of axillary spadices arising in the axils of much reduced leaves, represented by the sheathing bases only in the upper parts. It is therefore similar to the so-called "axillary" inflorescences of the other climbing palms (Figs. 82, 83).

All Nigerian members of this group have their spadices, branches and flowers arranged in four rows (sometimes obscured in the more compressed inflorescences but nevertheless recognizable), corresponding to the standard phyllotaxy.

Raphia regalis has only been recorded once in Nigeria and it is described as having a single erect inflorescence with arching side branches. It would be of the greatest interest to study this structure to see if it is truly terminal, an axillary form reduced to a single spadix or possibly an *Ancistrophyllum*-like type.

Literature Cited

- Russell, T. A. 1965. The *Raphia* palms of West Africa. Kew Bulletin 19: 173-196.
 Tomlinson, P. B. 1962. Palms of Africa. Principles 6: 96-103.
 Tuley, P. J. 1965. The production of *Raphia* wine in Nigeria. Experimental Agriculture 1: 141-144.

Branching Palms

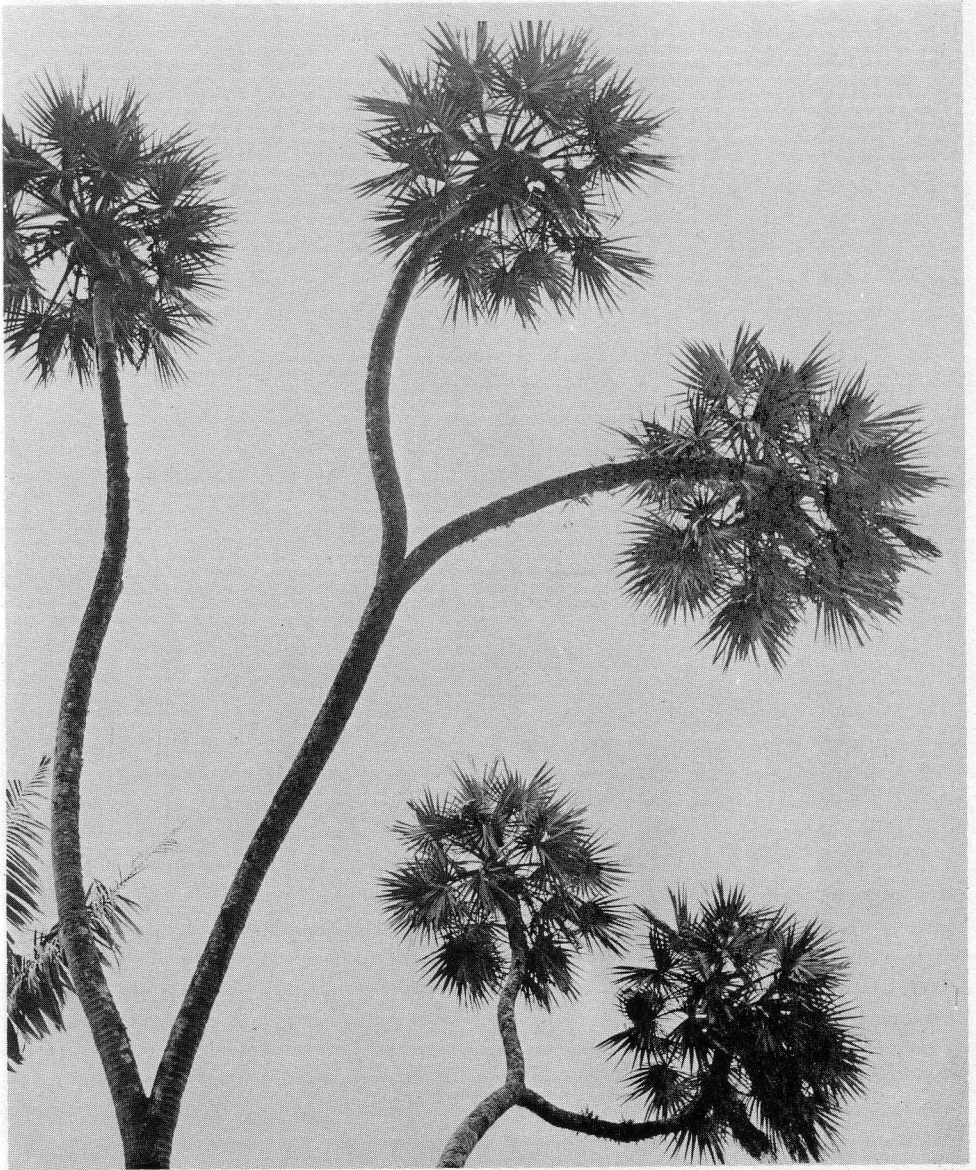
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The generalized picture that most of us have of a typical palm is of a tree with a single unbranched trunk topped by a crown or "head" or radiating leaves. These are produced regularly and successively during the growing season by the activity of the large terminal bud, located at the apex of the trunk. Even cluster palms, with their numerous unbranched single stems, follow this general picture. Species whose aerial stems branch are so rare as to be classed as oddities of the palm world. The best known branching species is the African doum or gingerbread palm (*Hyphaene thebaica*). In this plant the stems, for some innate reason, branch regularly and dichotomously to form striking candelabra-like trees which make bizarre silhouettes in the landscapes of the Sudan, Ethiopia and adjacent countries in northern Africa. Each doum palm dichotomy has a double head but the trees sport more than one single dichotomy. The doum palm, known to the

ancient civilizations of Egypt, is grown as an unique ornamental in tropical gardens throughout the world, including those of subtropical Florida.

Aerial branching in most other palms is an abnormal condition. Most frequently seen although rare is a single dichotomy giving rise to a so-called double-crowned specimen which is to be considered a freak of nature. These abnormal plants, unlike the doum palm, are presumably caused by some injury to the terminal bud resulting in its division to form two or more separate buds each of which then continues growth on its own giving rise to a double trunk. The injury to the growing point may be due to mechanical damage or the result of activity of insects, disease or the like.

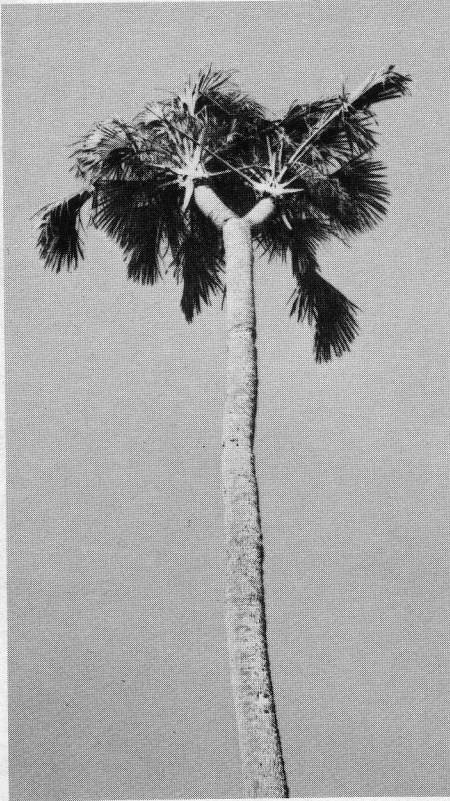
Presumably any single-stemmed palm species, if properly injured could give rise to a double crowned individual. A two-headed royal palm (*Roystonea sp.*) in Haiti was illustrated in an early issue



83. Naturally branched stems of *Hyphaene*. Photo W. H. Hodge.

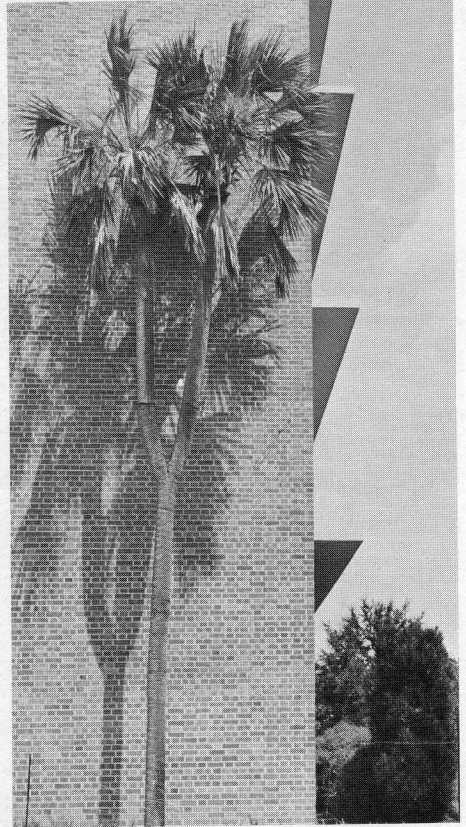
of this journal (*Principes* 1:126.1957). In this case vines, originally growing over the palms, are said to have caused restriction and partial severing of the original single bud to form two growing points. A later cover picture (*Principes* 6:77.1962) shows a branched specimen

of *Coccothrinax argentata* growing on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas. Illustrations accompanying this note show two examples of double-headed cabbage palmettos (*Sabal Palmetto*). One of these trees is a wild specimen growing along the east side of Florida Route No. 27,



84. Two-headed *Sabal Palmetto* south of Perry, Fla. Photo W. H. Hodge.

about 29 miles south of Perry. The other was undoubtedly also originally a wild plant obtained locally but it has been transplanted to serve as an unusual specimen against one of the new buildings on



85. Branched *Sabal* on Florida State University campus. Photo W. H. Hodge.

the Florida State University campus at Tallahassee. To my knowledge this is the first record of the horticultural use of an abnormal two-headed palm.

A New Species of *Arenga* from Borneo*

H. E. MOORE, JR. and W. MEIJER

ARENGA (*Arenga*) *RETROFLORESCENS*
H. E. Moore et W. Meijer, *sp. nov.*

Caules caespitiosi et coloniam constituentibus ad 8 dm. alti. Folia longe petiolata regulariter pinnata, eis ad basin

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exceptis, pinnis utrinque 22-23 anguste obcuneatis. Inflorescentiae spicatae unisexuales, a basi ad apicem caulis adolescentis, bracteis fibrosis pluribus, florum masculorum staminibus ca. 36, florum femineorum ovariis trilocularibus triovulatis, fructu triloculari, seminibus 2 (vel 3?).