

Geographic Distribution Of New World Palms

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In the process of preparing a revision of B. E. Dahlgren's *Index of American Palms* (Field Museum of Natural History Botanical Series 14: 1-456. 1936), I have compiled a separate list of palms native to the New World. Besides the original list, this enumeration includes new genera, species, varieties, forms and hybrids, new combinations, new distributional records and synonyms added since 1936. According to my totals, there are 82 genera and 1,439 species (including subspecific taxa) native to the New World. Palms known only from cultivation are not included in this list. It should be pointed out here that such a compilation leaves much to be desired since several large genera, e.g. *Chamaedorea*, *Geonoma* and *Syagrus* are currently being monographed, whereas a number of other genera, such as *Aiphanes*, *Astrocaryum*, *Bactris*, *Coccothrinax*, *Desmoncus*, *Euterpe*, and *Scheelea*, are in need of taxonomic revision. Furthermore, continued exploration of such countries as Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Bolivia will undoubtedly alter the total number of palm taxa.

Table I lists the names of all of the genera I recognize along with the number of species for each. If a familiar genus is not on the list, it has been reduced to synonymy. For example, I am including *Arecastrum*, *Arikuryroba*, *Barbosa*, *Lytocaryum*, and *Microcoelum* under the genus *Syagrus*; and the genera *Guilielma*, *Pyrenoglyphis* and *Yuyba* are to be found under *Bactris*.

From the above list of palms, the geographic distribution of species for

each country and possession in the New World was determined. Table II enumerates the genera and species of native palms for these countries. Each country is listed in geographic order starting with the United States and ending with Argentina. A complete list of names of genera and species for each country will be included in the revision of the *Index of American Palms* when it is published.

It is interesting to note that more than one-third (488) of the known species of New World palms are distributed in Brazil. Of this total, the genera *Bactris* (149) and *Geonoma* (91) comprise one-half the number of Brazilian species. Colombia, Peru and Venezuela with 294, 144 and 106 species, respectively, have the next richest palm floras. Cuba, with 89 species, has an unusually large palm flora for a country its size; however, the genera *Copernicia* with 24 and *Coccothrinax* with 35, account for about two-thirds of the species. In Central America, outstanding palm floras are found in Costa Rica (81), Guatemala (76), Mexico (74) and Panama (72).

Bolivia, with 48 species, has a relatively poor palm flora compared to other countries of similar size such as Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. This could be due to insufficient exploration or to its being a greater distance from the equator than the others. On the other hand, smaller countries like Ecuador (55), British Guiana (45) and Trinidad (37) have a fair number of palms for their size. Argentina (7), Uruguay (3) and Chile (2) have very poor palm

Table I
Genera and Species of American Palms

<i>Genus</i>	<i>No. of Species</i>	<i>Genus</i>	<i>No. of Species</i>
Acanthococos	4	Leopoldinia	4
Acoelorrhaphe	1	Lepidocaryum	8
Acrocomia	28	Manicaria	4
Aiphanes	37	Markleya	1
Allagoptera	6	Mauritia	6
Ammandra	1	Mauritiella	15
Asterogyne	2	Maximiliana	10
Astrocaryum	52	Metasocratea	1
Attalea	29	Morenia	11
Bactris	254	Neonicholsonia	1
Barcella	1	Oenocarpus	17
Brahea	7	Opsandra	1
Butia	9	Orbignya	24
Calyptrogyne	11	Parajubaea	2
Calyptronoma	7	Parascheelea	2
Catoblastus	15	Pholidostachys	2
Catostigma	2	Phytelephas	14
Ceroxylon	20	Polyandrococos	1
Chamaedorea	99	Prestoea	12
Chelyocarpus	3	Pseudophoenix	2
Chrysalidosperma	1	Raphia	1
Coccothrinax	50	Reinhardtia	8
Colpotherinax	1	Rhapidophyllum	1
Copernicia	29	Rhyticocos	1
Corozo	1	Roystonea	17
Crysophila	8	Sabal	25
Desmoncus	67	Scheelea	43
Dictyocaryum	6	Serenoa	1
Erythea	9	Socratea	12
Euterpe	52	Syagrus	47
Gaussia	2	Synechanthus	6
Geonoma	241	Taenianthera	10
Haitiella	1	Tessmanniodoxa	2
Hemithrinax	4	Thrinax	12
Hyospathe	18	Trithrinax	5
Iriarteia	7	Washingtonia	2
Iriartella	2	Welfia	2
Jessenia	5	Wendlandiella	3
Juania	1	Wettinia	5
Jubaea	1	Wettiniicarpus	2
Kalbreyera	1	Zombia	1
Totals		Genera 82	Species 1,439

floras. This can probably be attributed to the great distance from the equator. *Juania australis* (Mart.) Drude, from Juan Fernandez Islands (belonging to Chile) at about 35° S. Latitude, apparently ranges farther south than any

other native palm. In the northern hemisphere, at approximately 35° N. Latitude (at the level of North Carolina, Arkansas and Oklahoma), *Sabal minor* (Jacq.) Pers. probably ranges farther north than any other native species.

Table II
Geographic Distribution

Country	No. of Genera	No. of Species	Country	No. of Genera	No. of Species
United States	9	13	Dominica	6	8
Mexico	18	74	Martinique	6	6
Guatemala	22	76	St. Lucia	4	4
British Honduras	17	34	St. Vincent	2	2
El Salvador	5	5	Barbados	1	1
Honduras	16	27	Grenada	3	3
Nicaragua	11	27	Tobago	6	8
Costa Rica	23	81	Trinidad	15	37
Panama	23	72	Curacao	1	1
Bermuda	1	1	Colombia	50	294
Bahamas	5	5	Ecuador	20	55
Cuba	16	89	Peru	34	144
Jamaica	7	12	Chile	2	2
Navassa Island	2	2	Venezuela	30	106
Hispaniola	13	20	British Guiana	18	45
Puerto Rico	9	10	Surinam	9	23
Virgin Islands	2	3	French Guiana	7	14
Anguilla	1	1	Brazil	39	488
Saba	2	2	Bolivia	23	48
St. Christopher	2	2	Paraguay	10	25
Barbuda	1	1	Uruguay	3	3
Antigua	1	1	Argentina	5	7
Guadeloupe	6	6			

The Vallée De Mai And The Coco-De-Mer Palm

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The small British Colony of the Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean, which is only 157 miles in area and consists of central granitic and outer coral islands, is renowned the world over for being the home of the coco-de-mer palm.

Of the three coco-de-mer reserves in

the granitic island of Praslin — Vallée de Mai, Fond Ferdinand and Anse Marie-Louise — the first is the best and the most worthwhile to visit. It was acquired by the Seychelles Government in 1948.

This reserve, which is a little less than