

## Palm Note

Good news from Sydney, Australia, where a rare and endangered species of *Pritchardia* is being pushed back from the verge of extinction. *Pritchardia maideniana* was about as close as you could get to being lost forever, the species being known only from two aging specimens in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. This handsome fan palm is thought to have been collected by Joseph H. Maiden on one of the Hawaiian islands around the turn of the century, but has never been relocated in the wild. Beccari described it in 1913

from these two plants, which though healthy are beginning to show signs of age. Fruiting has occurred in the past, but fertile seed has never been obtained.

Last year, the species was finally propagated successfully by seed, and four young plants are now growing near the Gardens' restaurant (Fig. 1). It has also been distributed to other botanical gardens around the world, to reduce its vulnerability by increasing its numbers in cultivation.

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1. Young seedlings of *Pritchardia maideniana*. The plaque commemorates their successful propagation, and the planting by the honorable Nick Greiner, premier of New South Wales, and Mrs. Greiner, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, 26 February 1990.

## Back Cover

Close-up of a staminate inflorescence of *Wettinia hirsuta* Burret growing on Cerro Jefe, Panama. Photo by Andrew Henderson.