

Principes, 38(2), 1994, p. 119

PALM BRIEF

Coco-de-mer in Guyana

I very much enjoyed reading Peter Pritchard's description of the palms of Georgetown, Guyana, and its Botanic Gardens in the January 1993 issue of *Principes* (vol. 37, pages 12-18). His notes on the naturalization and spread of the Asian *Nypa* palm along the Atlantic coast were a revelation. He also said that there is presently only one, relatively young, specimen of the Coco-der-mer or Double coconut (*Lodoicea maldivica*) growing now at the Botanic Gardens. Nothing remains of three plants that were alluded to in the Georgetown Botanic Gardens Illustrated Guide of 1934. Palm Society members might be interested in a photograph taken by David Fairchild in 1932 when he visited that Garden. Note that Fairchild used an outdated scientific synonym for the palm. This picture is taken from the historically important collection of Fairchild negatives and prints housed in the Special Collections of the Montgomery Library of Fairchild Tropical Garden. The following is written in Fairchild's hand on the edge of the 5 × 7 inch negative: "Coco de Mer Palm, *Lodoicea callipgye*. Georgetown Botanic Garden 2.23.32 Dorsett holding nut."

JACK B. FISHER
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Miami, FL 33156



1. "Coco de Mer Palm," photographed by David Fairchild.

Back Cover

A young, cultivated plant of *Trachycarpus martianus*, Shillong.