

LITERATURE CITED

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Lemurophoenix (lee mure oh fee nix)—a compound of lemur, the endemic Madagascar primate group, and *phoenix* (Gr.), the date palm and used as a general name for a palm; a partial translation of the Malagasy vernacular name for this splendid palm “hovitra vari mena,” the palm of the red-ruffed lemur.

Acanthophoenix (a kan though fee nix)—a compound of *acanthos* (Gr.), a spine, and *phoenix* (Gr.), the date palm, also used as a general term for a palm. The name reflects the very spiny nature of this Mascarene genus.

Borassus (bor ass us), said to be from borassos (Gr.), an immature inflorescence of the date palm *Phoenix*, though why Linnaeus should have used this word for a completely different palm is not clear.

Borassodendron (bor ass oh den dron), a compound of *Borassus* (see above) and dendron (Gr.), a tree.

Calamosagus (kah lam oh say gus), combines two generic names, *Calamus* and *Sagus*. We assume that the name, a synonym of *Korthalsia*, reflects the climbing, *Calamus*-like habit of this rattan genus and the inflorescence branches that bear a strong resemblance to those of the sago palm *Metroxylon* (to which at one time the generic name *Sagus* was applied).

Calappa (kah lap a), an early synonym of *Cocos*, the coconut, is a latinisation of *kelapa*, one of the most widely used vernacular names of the coconut in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Sagus (say gus), latinisation of the Indonesian/Malay word *sagu*, from which the English “sago” is also derived; this is a synonym of *Metroxylon*, the sago palms. Sago is extracted from the pith of the stem.

Marojejya (mah roh zhay zhee a) is named for the extraordinary rugged mountain massif of Marojejy in northeastern Madagascar where the palm was first collected by Humbert.

Masoala (mah zoh ah la) is the rugged peninsula in northeastern Madagascar where the eponymous genus was first collected by Perrier de la Bâthie.

Voanioala (voh ah nee oh al a) is the Malagasy name for this relative of the coconut. The name means, literally, fruit of the coconut of the forest, or forest coconut. It illustrates the remarkable connections between Malagasy and the Malay languages of southeast Asia, reflecting the early colonization of Madagascar by peoples of southeast Asian origin. *Voanioala* is linguistically very close to *buah niur ala* which would be recognisable in Java as “fruit of the coconut of the forest.”

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