

# Maximizing Seed Production of *Linospadix monostachya*

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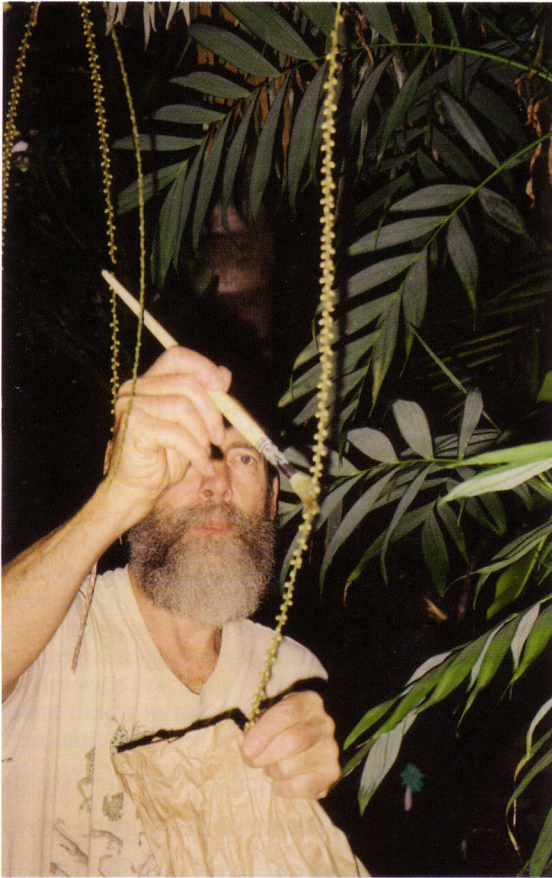
1. *Linospadix monostachya* with inflorescences bagged for pollen collection.

For years we watched our *Linospadix monostachya* palms in hopes of seeing beautiful strings of red infructescences. If luck prevailed, a total of 30 or 40 seeds would develop from multiple inflorescences; this certainly was not the spectacular seed display that had entranced us in photographs and at other gardens.

We decided to get serious about increasing seed production and began observing the flowering habit of *Linospadix monostachya*. At first

observation, using a hand lens, we were able to differentiate male from female flowers. The flowers appear in a triad formation; a single female





2. Jim Wright applies pollen to receptive pistillate flowers.



3. The results of hand pollination, inflorescences with full loads of ripe fruits.

'pistillate' bud is located between two male 'staminate' buds. The staminate buds open three to four weeks before the pistillate buds, yielding plentiful quantities of pollen. Unfortunately, most of this pollen has dispersed by the time the female flowers are receptive.

Our solution (Fig. 1) is to place a paper bag over the full length of the inflorescence. After the male flowers have finished producing pollen, the bags are removed, closed, and stored in a dry place. When the pistillate flowers are receptive, we use an artist's paint brush, (Fig. 2), frequently dipping the brush into the pollen at the bottom of the

bag, painting the pollen up and down the entire length of the inflorescence. We do this once or twice a day for 7 to 10 days, or as long as the female flowers appear to be receptive. This has been truly rewarding (Fig. 3), as each of the inflorescences that we hand-pollinated produces a full length of seeds. We employ the same technique on *L. minor*, with the same productive results.

If you have a palm from which you desperately want seeds, try out this technique; it may be just the answer.