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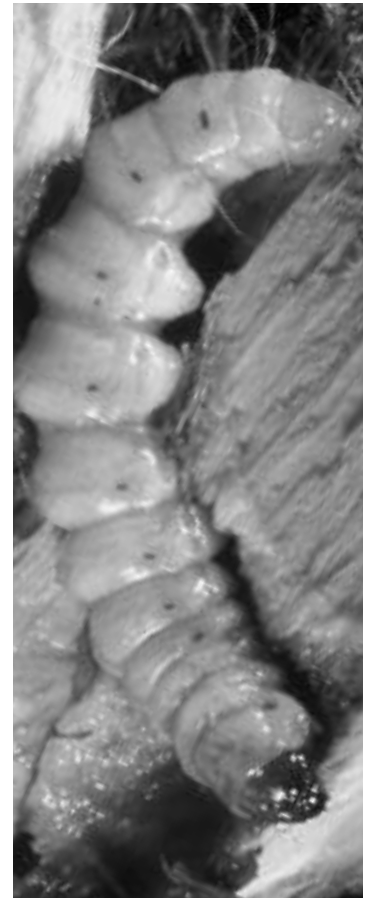


BACK COVER

Caryota sympetala, in fruit. See article on page 190 by Dransfield and Evans. (photo J. Dransfield)

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A sight to strike fear in the hearts of palm lovers: the larva of the Red Palm Weevil, a destructive pest of palms. See article by Ferry and Gómez beginning on page 172.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

In this issue of PALMS, we present several articles on emerging pests and diseases of palms. Some of these pests are confined to relatively small regions of the palm-growing world, but the potential for spread is so high that we all must be aware of the problems and take the necessary precautions. We have learned that *Paysandisia archon*, a South American moth which is moving into Spain and France, has also been intercepted in West Sussex, UK. We have also learned from Michel Ferry, recently returned to Elche from a date palm conference in Abu Dhabi, that there is no effective way to fight against infestations of the Red Palm Weevil. Pests and diseases, once they are introduced and become established, are difficult if not impossible to eradicate, so we must use extreme caution when moving palms from one part of the world to another.

On a happier note, we can report that the IPS Biennial, hosted by the Association Fous de Palmiers, was a great success. Attendees were treated to tours of beautiful gardens in and around Hyères les Palmiers and Nice, France, and in Monaco. Lectures from palm specialists from Cuba, Denmark, Spain, France and the USA provided food for thought, while lunches and banquets provided the kind of food for which the French are justly famous. The most enjoyable part of the Biennial was the chance to renew old friendships and make new ones among IPS members from over 20 countries. A report on the Biennial and the Post Tour is planned for a forthcoming issue of PALMS.

The Board of Directors of the IPS met just prior to the Biennial and convened a meeting of the Society's Research and Education Endowment Fund Committee. IPS past-president Jim Cain chairs the Committee and coordinated the receipt and evaluation of this year's grant applications. Proposals were judged for scientific or horticultural merit, feasibility and coincidence with the goals and objective of the IPS. The Board approved grants totaling \$5594.

Last year, the Board approved a measure to send sets and subscriptions of Principes/PALMS to eleven libraries in Asia, Madagascar and Latin America. This year, a twelfth institution, the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Mexico, was added to the list of recipients. The Board is especially proud of this effort to disseminate palm information to palm-rich areas of the world.

Ms. Julissa Roncal, a Ph.D. student at Florida International University, Miami, Florida, was awarded \$1674 for her work on *Geonoma* in Peru. Ms. Roncal is studying how species of *Geonoma* occupy subtly different, non-overlapping habitats in the rainforest. She is also undertaking a molecular study of the tribe Geomeae.

On the Lesser Antillean island of Dominica, Mr. Arlington James, of the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division, is studying the demography and population dynamics of *Pseudophoenix sargentii*. The IPS awarded Mr. James \$1120 to continue his studies.

Mr. Don Hodel, University of California Cooperative Extension, reported on his grant from the previous year to study the effects of leaf removal and tie-up during transplanting. He notified the IPS that he had some funds remaining and will use them for continued research on transplanting practices.

Finally, Dr. Andrew Henderson of the New York Botanical Garden is preparing a field guide to the palms of the Old World, as a companion volume to his popular *Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas*. The IPS was not able to underwrite the entire project but contributed \$2300 toward equipment and travel expenses.

The IPS Research and Education Endowment Fund was established in 1985. If you would like to support palm research, horticulture, and education around the world, please contact IPS President Horace Hobbs at horacehobbs@pobox.com.

THE EDITORS