

CONTENTS

- 109 ***Syagrus vermicularis***, a Fascinating
New Palm from Northern Brazil
L. NOBLICK
-
- 117 Fire Returns to Native Palms in South
Florida
S. WRIGHT
-
- 121 Night Train to Mandalay, Part II
D.R. HODEL
-
- 141 Edible Palms of Southern Ecuador
V. VAN DEN EYNDEN, E. CUEVA & O. CABERA
-
- 153 Rat Damage on Native Hawaiian
Palms
M.H. CHAPIN
-



BACK COVER

Looking up into the crown of *Syagrus vermicularis*, a species newly described in this issue of PALMS by L. Noblick, p. 109. Photo by L. Noblick.

Features

News from the World of Palms	108
Palm Research 2003	148
Classifieds	151
Allerton Award	152



Like all rattan palms, fruits of *Calamus arborescens* are scaly (Hodel *et al.* 1949). See story by D. Hodel, p. 121.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

Starting with this issue, PALMS is now all-color! At last May's board of directors' meeting, the board approved an increase to the production budget of PALMS that now allows us to print color illustrations on any page. Prior to this change, color illustrations had to fall on certain pages, and this constrained both authors and editors. Often, the editors were forced to reproduce images in black and white because there was not enough space on the color pages. Those days are behind us. We encourage authors to submit high-quality, color images along with their manuscripts. We welcome color slides and prints. Please contact the editors before submitting digital images.

The Asociación de Palmeras y Cicas de El Salvador is the latest group to become affiliated with the IPS. We welcome the new Salvadoran members and hope their enthusiasm for palms spreads throughout Central America. We might also add that the Sydney branch of the Palm and Cycad Societies of Australia has a new name. It is now called the Sydney Tropical Garden Society.

Fairchild Tropical Garden, renowned for its palm collection, also has a new name. In March, Fairchild's board and members voted unanimously to change Fairchild's name to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. According to the Director, Dr. Mike Maunder, this decision was made to recognize FTBG's heritage of tropical plant collecting and exploring, as personified by one of its founders, Dr. David Fairchild, and to reflect its status as a botanic garden, an institution focused on the serious issues of education, research, tropical horticulture and conservation.

A bizarre story appeared in the London-published newspaper *Metro* on 11 May 2004, linking *Lodoicea maldivica* with one of the world's cosmetic giants and a sex shop that sells whips and other paraphernalia. Samantha Roddick (daughter of Anita Roddick, the founder of the famous Body Shop in UK), who owns an adult shop in London's Covent Garden, lost a legal battle over the use of her brand name and logo, Coco-de-Mer. Ms

Roddick used the logo, featuring the erotic form of the double-coconut seed, to identify her range of products, suggesting that the nut had significance that was both "spiritual and sexual" and was a potent symbol of fertility. The cosmetics giant Chanel took issue, claiming that the public would be confused by products bearing the logo and brand-name Coco-de-mer with their own Coco brand, named for the company's founder Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel. The judge ruled in favor of Chanel. To the palm aficionado, the ruling seems bizarre – how could anyone confuse the seed of *Lodoicea* linked to a line of adult equipment with the name of a long-established brand of perfume?

On a more serious note: We have learned that Robert Lee Riffle and our president, Paul Craft, have been awarded the prestigious 2004 American Horticultural Society Annual Book Award for their recent book, *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*, published by Timber Press and reviewed by Don Hodel in PALMS 47(3). Our congratulations go to the authors. Many members will already have purchased this excellent book – if you have not done so already, then the announcement of the award must surely encourage you to consider buying one of the best popular introductions to palms.

Exciting new insights into the relationships of palms have been made over the last few years, especially thanks to the development of analytical methods for interpreting variability in DNA of palms. These insights have forced palm scientists to rethink how palms should be classified. Work on the new edition of *Genera Palmarum* is in its final year and co-authors John Dransfield, Natalie Uhl, Connie Asmussen, Bill Baker, Carl Lewis and Madeline Harley met in June in Cornell University to encapsulate the results of recent research in a new classification that will form the backbone of the book. It is hoped that the first draft of the manuscript will be completed by the end of 2004.

THE EDITORS