

Lixiu. Ms. Guo is also still in contact with the guide of Hweishan Natural Reserve in order to obtain mature seeds and distribute it to as many botanical institutions as possible. The Hweishan Natural Reserve (City-level) was established in Dec., 2008, next to the Ehuangzhang Nature Reserve (Province-level). We hope that this protection will be enough to allow *in situ* conservation as well!

Acknowledgments

This trip was made possible thanks to the Annette Kade Fellowship and a PPF Barcoding grant from the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. Thanks to Andrew Henderson, Liu Qian from Nanjing Agriculture University, Mr. Li Zhishu from Hweishan Natural Reserve, Fangfang Weng, Qunkai Liu and Lawrence Kelly for their assistance and support.

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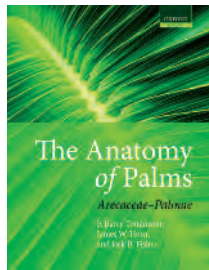
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PALM LITERATURE

THE ANATOMY OF PALMS ARECACEAE – PALMAE. P. B. Tomlinson, J. W. Horn & J. B. Fisher. Oxford University Press. 2011. ISBN: 978-0-19-955892-6. Price \$225.00. Hardcover. Pp. 251.



A family-wide survey of the anatomy of palms is not a project for the faint of heart. The material needed for such a study is scattered across six continents and is sometimes difficult to identify. Palms are large, bulky and difficult to collect, and their tissues resist the dissection techniques developed for lesser plants. Prior to sectioning, the material must be soaked for days in hydrofluoric acid, washed and infused with alcohol and then infiltrated with resin, a lengthy and complicated process that can take weeks. In short, a study of palm anatomy requires comprehensive collections, a specialized laboratory and scientists with the time and commitment to see the project through.

Enter Barry Tomlinson, Jay Horn and Jack Fisher, who with support from Harvard University, National Tropical Botanical Garden, and the National Science Foundation, have tackled this Herculean task. This volume, in fact, is an updated version of Tomlinson's 1961 work, *Anatomy of the Monocotyledons. Vol. II: Palmae*. The new book completely supplants the old one with the clear advantage of 50 years of technological and intellectual progress. One of the most important advances is the phylogenetic underpinning of the new volume, following the classification in *Genera Palmarum 2*. Another important advance is the use of digital photography, which allowed the authors to capture color photomicrographs as they looked through their microscopes. Had they relied on old-fashioned color film, the cost of film and processing, not to mention the uncertainties of exposure and focus when shooting through a microscope, would have doomed the project from the start.

The book is into two main parts. Part one is an introduction to palm structure. The authors outline the heroic methods used to achieve the spectacular images of palm anatomy that grace the pages. They then explain the