

Photo Feature

Pseudophoenix lediniana in the Wild



These photographs by William Cinea (Director of the Cayes Botanic Garden, Haiti) and Marcos Caraballo (graduate student at Pennsylvania State University) taken in August, 2012, confirm the presence of wild individuals of *Pseudophoenix lediniana* in southern Haiti, at the type locality. On-going environmental challenges, coupled with recent natural disasters, have put the native palms of Haiti under tremendous threat. There was some doubt whether *Pseudophoenix lediniana* still survived. Cinea and Caraballo's confirmation is a welcome update for a flora that seldom gets good news. The only known population of this species has approximately 50 individuals and very few juveniles, so its continued

survival in the wild is still not assured. The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is supporting a project focusing on the conservation biology of this very rare species. *Ex situ* conservation collections will be established in the Jardín Botánico Nacional (Dominican Republic), Botanical Garden of the University of Puerto Rico, Cayes Botanic Garden (Haiti), the Montgomery Botanical Center, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the USDA Chapman Field Station (Florida).

JAVIER FRANCISCO-ORTEGA
*Florida International University &
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden,
Miami, Florida*

