



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

APRIL 2017

NEWSLETTER

It's springtime, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, which for many of us means time to accomplish a wide variety of palm-related chores. This is also a good time to think safety! Whether it be lifting heavy pots with your knees instead of your back, wearing gloves and goggles when trimming fronds (especially those well-armed palms), and following the precautions and instructions for the use of power tools, fertilizers, and chemicals, we encourage you to have a safe and productive season!!

Crinoids: Animals that look like plants

Known as sea lilies, crinoids are marine animals which have evolved plant-like forms. Indeed the name comes from the Greek word *krinon*, "a Lily" and *eidos*, "form." There about 600 species of these animals, some of them closely resembling palms, cycads, and ferns! As old as 200 millions years, they used to be more diverse and abundant. Some consider surviving crinoid species to be living fossils. These crinoids inhabit a wide geographical range.



[Note and Video in National Geographic website.](#)

Unstalked forms—like the one above—are called feather stars, however not all feather stars can swim. Some just crawl along the bottom. Those that swim, however, are truly captivating.

Above: [Video](#) taken from [Beautiful Nature Photobook](#) Facebook Page.

Left: *Tropiometra carinata*, by [Peter Southwood](#). (CC BY-SA 3.0)

2018 IPS BIENNIAL!

Save the Date! IPS 2018 Biennial – Colombia

Diverse. Beautiful. Intriguing. Colombia will be the venue of the 2018 IPS Biennial.

The team is working feverishly to secure venues, finalize itineraries and define costs.

We are targeting late May to mid-June for the event. Save the date and stay tuned for updates.



¡Anote la Fecha! IPS 2018 Bienal – Colombia

Diverso. Bello. Intrigante. Colombia será el destino para la reunión IPS Biannual 2018. El equipo IPS está trabajando fuertemente para finalizar sitios, itinerarios y para definir costos. Estamos apuntando a fechas de entre finales de mayo a mediados de junio para el evento. Anote la fecha y manténgase atento de más noticias.

About Colombia

Colombia is the home of *Sabinaria magnifica*, a species discovered in 2013 (good story about its discovery in *Palms* issue Vol 58. No. 1), and the tall *Ceroxylon* spp. ([Cocora: Colombia's valley of palms](#)) Colombia, located northern South America, offers a wide variety of climates and landscapes. It boasts both a very rich culture and biodiversity.

Check this video out, it's important! (YouTube; Mix Spanish, French and English): [¿Por qué Colombia? Why Colombia? Pourquoi la Colombie?](#)



Colombia's biodiversity is result at least in part of a diverse geography that includes the Andes, the Amazon Region, Los Llanos, and the Caribbean and Atlantic basins.

Above: Illustration of *Sabinaria magnifica* by [Benjamín Cardenas](#) (CC BY-NC 4.0)
Left: *Ceroxylon quindiuense* by [Clivid](#) (CC BY-ND 2.0)

All Together Against *Rhynchophorus*

Red Palm Weevil: "A global problem that needs a global solution" - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General José Graziano da Silva. The fight against palm weevils is all but simple.

Palm Weevil, the name pertains to three different species of the *Rhynchophorus* genus: *R. palmarum*, South American native and transmitter of a nematode causing red ring disease; the North American-based *R. cruentatus*; and the Asian native *R. ferrugineus*, a red weevil which has caused serious economical impact. The later in particular was the topic of a high-level meeting by the Food and Agriculture Organization held from 29—31 March designed to determine a plan of action to counter this threat.



The threat is not limited to ornamental palms. Commercial crops such for dates and coconuts are also affected. And there is also a social dynamic to this problem. Because date palms are so important to life in an oasis, a severe loss of palms can affect the viability of an entire oasis and consequently can lead to human migration from oases to urban areas.



Above: *R. ferrugineus* in Almería, by [Pedro Requena](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)
Left: *R. cruentatus* showing color and size variation Photo: [Robin M. Giblin-Davis](#)

Below: *R. palmarum*, by Bernard [DUPONT](#) (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Damage caused by red weevil is estimated in the millions of US dollars. It is estimated that eight million US Dollars are lost annually in the Middle East removing affected plants. Meanwhile in Europe, the weevils led to 90 million Euros in 2013 in pest management, erradication, and replacement of infected areas.

All Together Against *Rhynchophorus* (continued)

Measures to tackle this problem should be multidisciplinary, as FAO addresses, commercial controls, integrated pest management, tracking and monitoring infested areas, and biological control. At the end of this meeting participants agreed on measures such as a prohibition against international trade of palms taller than six cm from affected countries.

First global push to stop Red Palm Weevil wiping out palms, FAO Press ([Spanish](#) & [English](#))

New action plan to stop the spread of Red Palm Weevil, FAO Press ([Spanish](#) and [English](#))



Above: "Experts on the Red Palm Weevil meet at FAO in Rome to debate and refine a global framework to eradicate the pest." [FAO Press](#)

A Little Chocolate?



Are you a fan of bright, red-colored emergent leaves? Or do you perhaps just love chocolate? The Durango Palm (*Geonoma chococola*) might be a good addition to add to your "must have" list. The Durango Palm is from Ecuador where it grows on the Andean slopes.

Growing in solitary or clustered cane-like form, the palm will grow well in humid, tropical environments. As it grows to only about four meters tall, it may also be a good candidate for the greenhouse or potted patio plant culture—making it a possibility for collectors outside of the tropics.

Left: Photograph of a Durango Palm (*Geonoma chococola* subsp. *awaensis*) growing in Hawaii. Photo courtesy Suchin Marcus.

Palms Elicit Political Debates!

A group of palms is causing controversy in Milan, Italy. As part of a renovation project in Milan municipality, Starbucks, which won a bid for renovation of some city's open spaces, planted a group of palms in the opposite side of Milan's main *piazza*.

The planting of these palms sparked some controversy in part because the plantings were associated with a US coffee giant entering an Italian market and also in part because of an ongoing debate concerning immigration policy in Italy. Some non-immigrant movements, like the Northern League Party and CasaPound, argued that placing the palms in this area was an "Africanization," even though the palms planted were likely Asian natives (probably a variety of *Trachycarpus*). Three of the 42 palms were burned in overnight attacks in late February this year.



Photo taken from Article [Las palmeras de la discordia: una exótica plantación frente al Duomo divide a Milán](#) (Spanish)

The Milan Mayor argued that at the end of 19th century there were palms at Duomo *Piazza*. Although the palms were not Italian native, they are widespread in temperate zones of Italy, like in Rome itself, or in Sicily, where their contrasts with Norman cathedrals are a common photo opportunity for tourists. Some individual palms were brought to Italy by aristocrats during 18th and 19th century.

Arguments about appropriateness of these plants, pros and cons, have revolved around aesthetic, social, and historical aspects!

Other Articles: [Locals deride 'kitsch' Starbucks-sponsored palm trees planted in Milan's cathedral square](#). The Telegraph (UK), Feb 16th 2017 (English.)

[Vandals burn Milan Duomo palm trees as row turns racist](#), The Local (It), Feb 20th 2017 (English.)

DOES YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER/PALM SOCIETY HAVE AN EVENT? Let us know by advertising it here! Or share your experiences afterwards! Contact us and send us pictures!

In addition to renewing your International Palm Society membership online this year, keep in mind that the IPS also offers merchandise online that can help you show off your membership, present your palm passion, and help spread the word about our community of palm enthusiasts!!



How do you get your own IPS items that include jewelry, shirts, caps, mugs, glasses, and many other practical items? Simply follow the “caps, t-shirt, totes, and more!” link from the IPS homepage [IPS Home](#), or go directly to this link: [IPS CafePress](#).

Remember to support our organization by participating with us! You can contribute by participating in our Palm Talk forum, our Facebook group, or by writing an article for either Palms journal or a note for IPS newsletter. You can also make an extra donation to the International Palm Society.



Let's keep this alive!

Visit the discussion board to ask questions about palms: www.palmtalk.org

Visit the new INTERACTIVE FaceBook Group: International Palm Society

Follow us on Twitter: @IPS_PalmSociety; on Instagram: @thepalmsociety; or

Email address for contact: info@palms.org



Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) on a Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. Photograph by Zaqqy Jamil