



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER

Hello, fellow IPS members. Season's greetings and a very happy New Year!

We are always looking forward to hear from you! Let us know about your palm adventures!

Thai Pink Milk

Pink Milk is a beverage sold at drink stands and juice bars around Thailand. It's a sweet and refreshing drink packed with enough sugar to power tourists through an afternoon of sight-seeing or locals through a busy workday. The basis of this Thai favorite is Hale's® Blue Boy Brand Sala Cider syrup. This artificially flavored syrup is produced in Thailand, but it can be found at specialty Asian groceries in the USA. The bright, red (courtesy of FD&C Red 40) syrup can be used over shaved ice or used to flavor ice cream, but it is in Pink Milk that it achieves culinary stardom.

The flavor of Sala syrup is based on *Salacca* fruits. Two species of *Salacca* palm are cultivated in Thailand for their edible fruits: *Salacca zalacca* and *S. wallichiana*. The fruit of both species has a scaly, reptilian rind that covers a crisp, sweet, cream-colored flesh. Sala is the common name for *Salacca wallichiana* fruits. Sala fruits are spindle-shaped and covered with orange-brown scales whose reflexed tips give the fruit rind a prickly texture. There are named cultivars of *S. wallichiana* that are grown in Thailand for their superior fruits.

Right: Pink Milk and a bottle of Sala Cider syrup. Photo by Scott Zona.



Thai Pink Milk

The flavor of sala is hard to describe, but it is pleasantly aromatic and floral, which combines nicely with the flavors of the milk ingredients. The drink is rich and filling and very, very sweet. If you can find Hale's® Blue Boy Brand Sala Cider syrup at your local Asian market, you can make Pink Milk at home:

2 oz. (4 Tbsp or 60 ml) Hale's® Blue Boy Brand Sala Cider syrup

2 oz. sweetened condensed milk

2 oz. evaporated milk

Approx. 8 oz. boiling water.

Combine the above ingredients and stir until thoroughly dissolved. Allow to cool slightly, then pour into a 20-oz. glass filled with crushed ice. Top up with a bit more evaporated milk and serve with a straw.

By Scott Zona



Above: Known as Snake Fruit (Salak or Rakam - ระกำ), the fruits of *Salacca wallichiana* are “sweet and acidic,” are sold in Southeast Asia and have several culinary uses. These were bought and photographed in Phuket in Thailand by [Tatters. Photo](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Below: The petioles of *S. wallichiana* are spiny. Photo by [Ernest McGray, Jr.](#) (CC BY-SA 2.0)

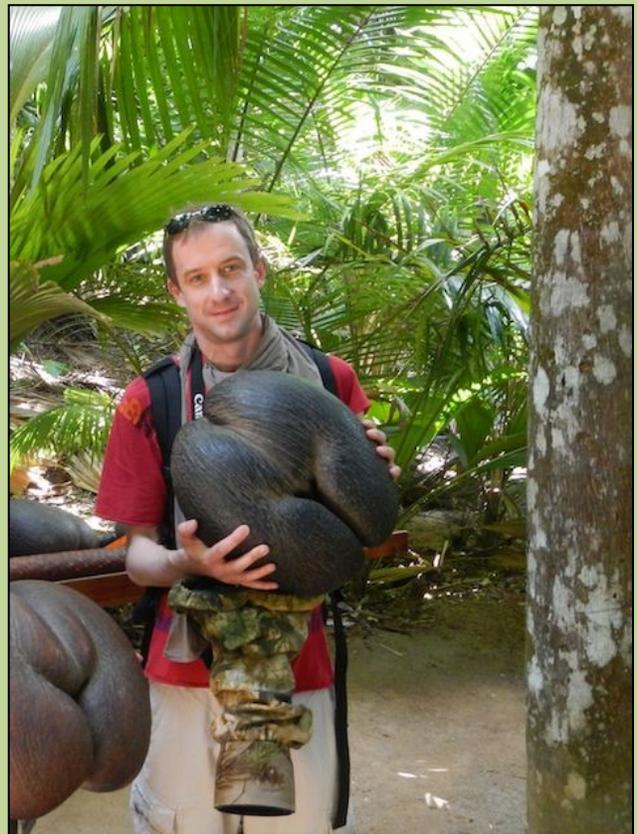


The only Double Coconut in India is pregnant and ready to deliver



In 1884, Sir George King, superintendent of the Botanic Garden in Howrah's Shibpur in India, planted two Coco-de-Mer specimens (*Lodoicea maldivica*, also known as the double coconut), of which one died but the other survived and flourished. In this species, the sexes are separated on different individuals (i.e. it is dioecious), so no one knew its sex during almost a century until SHE flow-

ered in 1988. Since then she has flowered regularly, but with no male specimen in the whole country, her flowers never produced fruits.



Above: A fruiting specimens of *Lodoicea maldivica*. [Photo by Cerlin Ng](#). (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Right: Seeds (endocarps) of *L. maldivica* in Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve, Seychelles. [Photo by Adrien](#). (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

The only Double Coconut in India is pregnant and ready to deliver

Thanks to the efforts of a group of scientists led by S S Hamid, an effort to fertilize the flowers was initiated. Various attempts were made over several years, involving both scientific and diplomatic efforts, to bring pollen from abroad. The first six attempts (six years!) were made with pollen from the Paradeniya Botanic Garden in Sri Lanka. Then pollen from Nongnooch Tropical Garden in Thailand was brought in 2013 and voila! Fertilization occurred!

After several years, the two fruits weigh about 25 kg and will constitute the next generation for a species that is endangered in the wild.

Article: [Lady Coco de mer, 123 \[years old\], ready to give birth anytime](#) Nov 19th, 2017 by Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey.

[India's only double coconut tree artificially pollinated](#) June 13th, 2015 by Shiv Sahay Singh.

Below: Male inflorescence of *L. maldivica* and a visiting day gecko. [Photo](#) by [Dreizung](#) (CC BY-SA 3.0), (CC BY-SA 2.5), (CC BY-SA 2.0), (CC BY-SA 1.0)

Further reading about this species: [Coco-de-Mer](#), Missouri Botanical Garden.





THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

IPS 2018 Biennial

SAVE THE DATE!

May 26 – June 2

IPS 2018 Bienal

¡GUARDE LA FECHA!

26 mayo al 2 junio

IPS 2018 Biennial

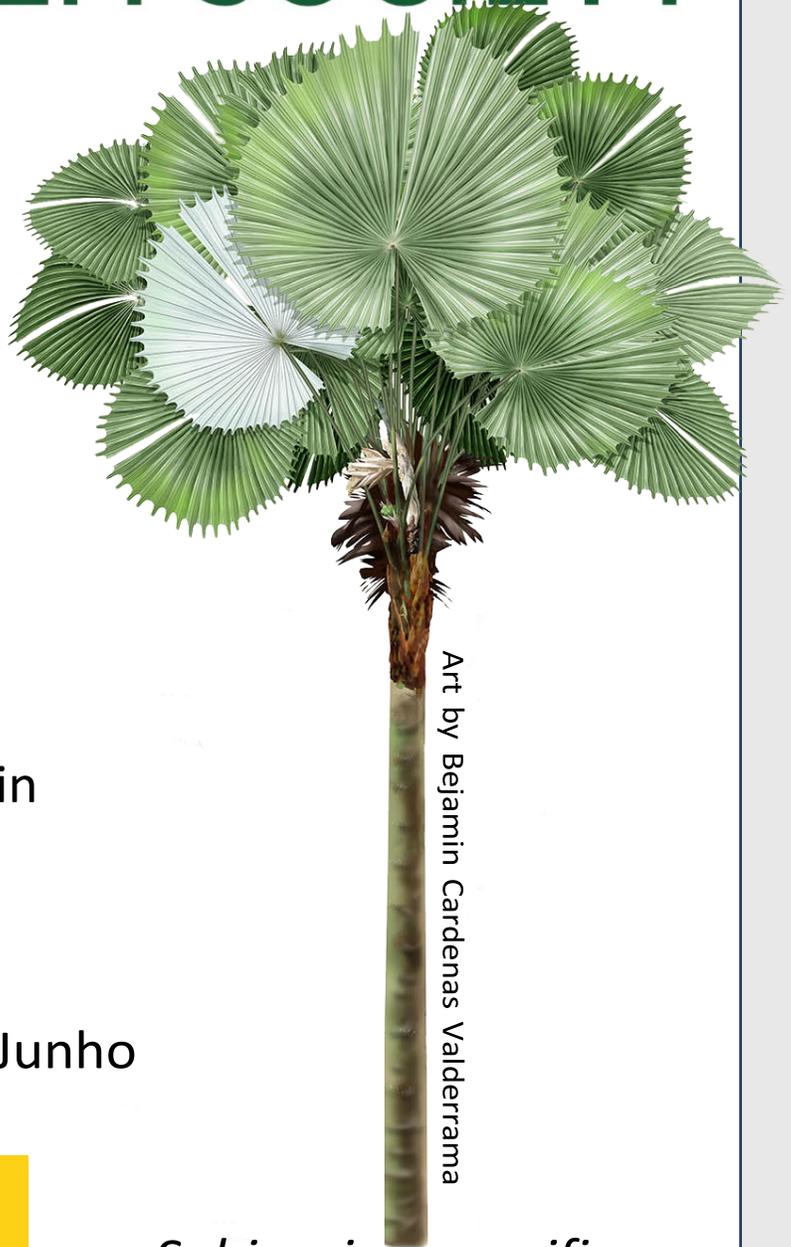
GARDEZ LA DATE!

26 Mai jusqu'à 2 Juin

IPS 2018 Bienal

RESERVA A DATA!

26 de Maio a 2 de Junho



Art by Benjamin Cardenas Valderrama

Sabinaria magnifica

Colombia

Armenia

Ladrilleros

Buenaventura

Cali



THE INTERNATIONAL
PALM SOCIETY

IPS Biennial Colombia 2018
May 26 - June 2

Dear IPS Members and Past Members,

We are delighted to announce that details of the upcoming Colombia Biennial are now available and **registration is open!**

This eight-day journey will take us through Colombia's Quindío Region with stops in Armenia, Tochechito and the Cocora Valley. We then drop to the port of Buenaventura and the palm-rich archipelago of Bahía Malaga, ending in the cosmopolitan city of Cali. This is a wonderful opportunity to see an array of palm species such as *Ceroxylon quindiuense*, Colombia's national tree and the world's tallest palm.

Dr. Rodrigo Bernal and Botanist Saul Hoyos are leading an extraordinary once-in-a-lifetime **PRE-TOUR** expedition to see the newly discovered *Sabinaria magnifica* in its natural habitat (May 21-25).

There are also options to participate in other pre/post tours that will visit biologically diverse regions of Colombia and beyond including Santander, Cartagena, Bogota, Tayrona National Park, Medellin and the Amazon.

For more information on the Biennial itinerary, the *Sabinaria magnifica* pre-tour, and pre/post tours, go to www.palms.org/Biennial_2018.cfm.

You will need to login to the member section of the IPS website and be a current IPS member to access the Biennial Event Website for full information and make your reservations. To go direct to the login page, [click here](#).

Register today!!

Liz Stansfeld | IPS Membership



Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) in snow
Photo by Paul McGuire from Los Angeles, California, USA. (CC BY-SA 2.0)