



Fig. 1. A portion of a strict consensus cladogram of subtribe *Arecinae* summarising the relationships between *Gronophyllum*, *Gulubia*, *Hydriastele* and *Siphokentia*. The cladogram results from simultaneous parsimony analysis of DNA sequence data from two low copy nuclear regions (Loo *et al.*, in prep.). ** = 80 – 100% bootstrap support, * = 60 – 79% bootstrap support.

strength of the molecular phylogenetic evidence and the morphological similarities described above, we propose a pragmatic and informative solution by reducing the four genera into a single, more broadly defined genus. In this paper, we place *Gronophyllum*, *Gulubia* and *Siphokentia* in synonymy under the oldest generic name, *Hydriastele*, and provide a synopsis of the 48 accepted species, including 34 new combinations, two new names and one new species. The species and synonymies that were recognised by the authors of the most recent accounts of the four genera (Essig 1982; Essig & Young 1985; Baker *et al.* 2000; Dransfield, unpublished) are accepted here. However, a revision of this group is currently in progress and it is expected that some of the 48 names will be reduced to synonymy in due course. Nevertheless, we present an outline classification here so that the new generic delimitation and validly published combinations in the genus *Hydriastele* are immediately available for general use.

Taxonomic Treatment

Hydriastele *H. Wendl. & Drude*, *Linnaea* 39: 208 (1875).
Adelonenga (Becc.) Hook. f. in *Bentham & Hooker*,
Gen. Pl. 3 (2): 885 (1883).
Gronophyllum Scheff., *Ann. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg* 1:
 135 (1876), **synon. nov.**

Gulubia Becc., *Ann. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg* 2: 131
 (1885), **synon. nov.**
Gulubiopsis Becc., *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 59: 11 (1924),
synon. nov.
Kentia Blume, *Bull. Sci. Phys. Nat. Néerl.* 1: 64 (1838),
 nom. illeg.
Leptophoenix Becc., *Ann. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg* 2: 82
 (1885), **synon. nov.**
Nengella Becc., *Malesia* 1: 32 (1877), **synon. nov.**
Paragulubia Burret, *Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem*
 13: 84 (1936), **synon. nov.**
Siphokentia Burret, *Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem*
 10: 198 (1927), **synon. nov.**

1. *Hydriastele affinis* (Becc.) *W. J. Baker & Loo*,
comb. nov. *Nenga affinis* Becc., *Malesia* 1: 29 (1877).
Leptophoenix affinis (Becc.) Becc., *Ann. Jard. Bot.*
Buitenzorg 2: 82 (1885). *Nengella affinis* (Becc.)
 Burret, *Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem* 13: 316
 (1936). *Gronophyllum affine* (Becc.) Essig & B. E.
 Young, *Principes* 29: 136 (1985). Type: Indonesia,
 Papua, Kapaor, *Beccari* s.n. (holotype FI).

2. *Hydriastele aprica* (B. E. Young) *W. J. Baker & Loo*,
comb. nov. *Gronophyllum apricum* B. E. Young, *Principes*
 29: 139 (1985). Type: Papua New Guinea, Sandaun,
 Telefomin, *Essig & Young* 74082 (holotype LAE).

3. *Hydriastele beccariana* Burret, *Repert. Spec. Nov.*
Regni Veg. 24: 292 (1928). Type: Indonesia, Papua,
 Noord R., *Versteeg* 1662 (holotype B†; isotypes BO, L).

4. *Hydriastele beguinii* (Burret) *W. J. Baker & Loo*,
comb. nov. *Siphokentia beguinii* Burret, *Notizbl. Bot.*
Gart. Berlin-Dahlem 10: 198 (1927). Type: Indonesia,
 Maluku, Halmahera, Soa Toberoe, *Beguin* 1995
 (holotype B†; isotype BO).
Siphokentia pachypus Burret, *Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-*
Dahlem 10: 199 (1927). Type: Indonesia, Maluku,
 Halmahera, Weda, *Beguin* 2349 (holotype B†;
 isotype BO).

5. *Hydriastele boumae* *W. J. Baker & D. Watling* **sp.**
nov., *H. vitiensi* affinis sed fructu majore oblongo,
 triadibus decussatis dispositis et foliis indivisis in
 submaturitate longe persistentibus differt. Typus: Fiji,
 Taveuni, Bouma, Cakaudrove, Oct. 2001, *Watling*
 170127 (holotypus K; isotypi L, NY, SUVA).

Robust, solitary tree palm to 32 m. *Stem* 26 – 28 cm
 diam., brown, nodal scars inconspicuous, adventitious
 root growth forming an expanded cone at base of stem