

UGANDA. Mbale District: Mt. Elgon, damp spots in heath zone, 3600 m., Jan. 1918, *Dummer* 3545 (K, holotype); and edge of stream, 2700 m., Apr. 1930, *Liebenberg* 1704; and wet place by Sasa stream, 3150 m., 22 Mar. 1951, *G. H. S. Wood* 126.

KENYA. Trans-Nzoia District: Mt. Elgon, E. slopes above Japata estate, in small swamp, 3000 m., 1 Mar. 1948, *Hedberg* 186.

A number of varieties have been described for the world-wide *L. campestris* (L.) DC., this new one and var. *mannii* Buchen. differing from the others by having stolons and a more vigorous growth. Var. *gracilis* S. Carter from East Africa, apparently confined in distribution to Mount Elgon, differs from var. *mannii* Buchen. (described from Fernando Po and the Cameroon Mt.) by the branches of its inflorescence being longer, more slender and flexuose, and by the lowest bract not overtopping the inflorescence.

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PALMAE

Oncocalamus wrightianus Hutch. in Hutch. & Dalz., Fl. W. Trop. Afr. 2: 391 (1936) (descr. anglica); sp. nov. affinis *O. wrightii* Wendl., sed foliolis paucioribus et vaginis foliorum aculeatis differt.

[*O. mannii* sensu C. H. Wright in Dyer, Fl. Trop. Afr. 8: 111 (1901), partim, non Wendl.].

Folia pinnata; foliola circiter 5-juga, opposita vel subopposita, lanceolata, acuta, circiter 10–15 cm. longa et 2–4.5 cm. lata, remote spinuloso-dentata, tenuia, plurinervia; rhachis prope basin aculeata, in cirrhum gracilem aculeis oppositis reflexis armatum producta; vagina basalis aculeata.

NIGERIA. Lagos Island, swamp, 1857, *Barter* 2220 (K, holotype):—6 m. high. Ebute Metta, swampy ground, Nov. 1892, *Millen* 18:—stem used for making baskets; used for tie-tie; vernacular name (Yoruba) 'Pankere'. Ijebu Prov.: about 1 km. from Sunmoge on the new road to Osho, in high secondary forest tangles, 10 Apr. 1946, *A. P. D. Jones & Onochie* in *F.H.I.* 17419:—tall scrambling palm to 10 m. high.

J. HUTCHINSON

West African Lilies and Orchids.*—Anybody who seriously studies tropical plants and animals soon comes up against the problem of literature (or the lack of it) for his particular subject. If the student has access to a major biological library he may be able to find his way to papers scattered through numerous journals. Occasionally he may find a reference book which deals entirely with his interest, but it is usually highly technical, sparsely illustrated and very expensive. If a specialist has this trouble, then vain seems the quest of the school-teacher or anyone else living in a tropical country who wants to learn about the plants and animals around him. Rarely is there any popular work to help him which is well-illustrated,

* *West African Lilies and Orchids*. By J. K. Morton, with colour plates by Iona Loxton, S. K. Avumatsodo and S. C. Rowles. West African Nature Handbook Series. Pp. 71, 20 plates. London: Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd., 1961. Price 9s. 6d.