

young but glabrescent in age, stiffly branched into 12-14 branches, the lower branches once-branched, the upper unbranched, rachillae to 23 cm. long, 4 mm. wide, angled and flexuous especially toward the apex; bracts subtending the inflorescence 2, not seen but scars of insertion ca. 2.5 cm. apart with the scar of a third and probably incomplete bract above; flowers in triads of 2 staminate and a pistillate for the most part, these slightly impressed and subtended by a very narrow bractlet when fresh, superficial and the bractlet not obvious when dry, arranged subdistichously to distichously in a slight spiral nearly throughout the axes. Staminate flowers light green, ca. 10 mm. long when dry, symmetric; sepals 3-4 mm. high, 5-6 mm. broad, gibbous basally, the margins more or less crenulate and sometimes minutely ciliate; petals ca. 9 mm. high, 6 mm. broad, navicular; stamens ca. 190 with white filaments and light brown anthers; pistillode broadly ovoid, lobed apically; pistillate flowers in bud 6 mm. high; sepals 3.5-4 mm. high, ca. 5 mm. wide, rounded and sometimes crenulate; petals ca. 5 mm. high with brief valvate apex; staminodes 3, denticiform; pistil ovoid, the ovule pendulous. Fruit orange-red when mature, ellipsoid, ca. 1.9-2.0 cm. long, 1.4 cm. in diam. when fresh, becoming 1.1-1.2 cm. in diam. when dry; exocarp densely and minutely roughened over included sclerosomes when dry; mesocarp thin with several layers of longitudinal fibers over the fragile yellowish endocarp; seed oblong-ellipsoid, ca 1.1 mm. high, 9 mm. in diam. essentially terete in cross-section, with impressed anastomosed raphe-branches, the raphe extending along one side of the seed; endosperm homogeneous; embryo basal.

Vernacular names: *basibasi* (Kwara'ae language); *ori* (Bogotu language).

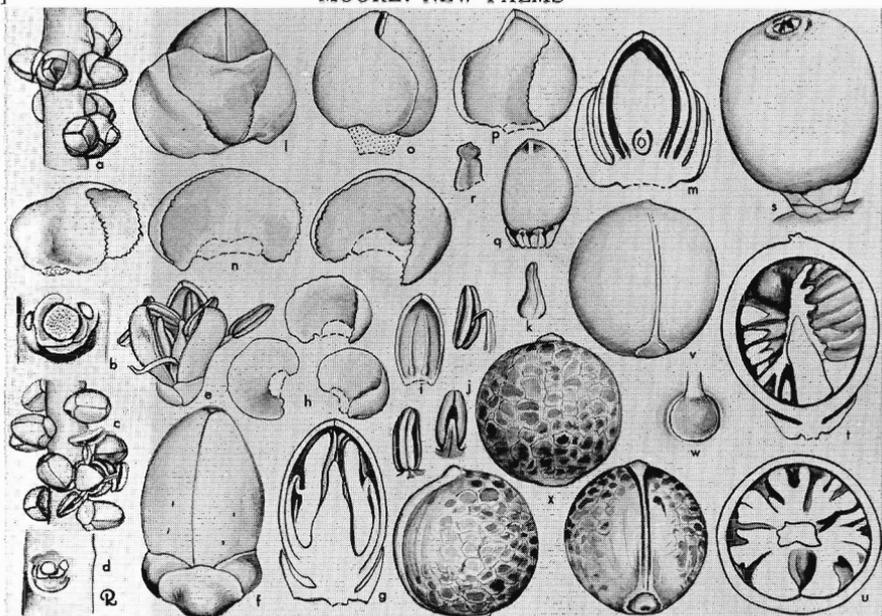
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE. SANTA YSABEL: Bogotu Peninsula, occasional on slopes of ridges behind Nangalao Village near Tatamba, 0-500 ft. alt., 20 March 1964, *H. E. Moore, Jr. & T. C. Whitmore 9300* [= *BSIP 2588*] (BH, holotype; BSIP, isotype).

*Rehderophoenix subdisticha* is the second species to be described for the genus. It differs from *R. pachyclada* of San Cristoval Island in the much smaller inflorescence (5 dm. vs. 1 m.) with slender rachillae (4 mm. vs. 8 mm.) on which the triads are arranged in essentially distichous fashion through a low spiral on the axis, the fruits appearing two-ranked rather than in a distinct spiral with fruits several-ranked. The fruits, themselves, are smaller (1.9-2.0 cm. vs. 2.5 cm.) and abruptly rounded rather than tapered at the apex, with a smaller perianth in fruit (6 mm. vs. 9 mm.) the seeds oblong-ellipsoid rather than ellipsoid. Staminate flowers have ca. 190 stamens as opposed to ca. 290 stamens in *R. pachyclada*.

Bracts subtending the inflorescence of *R. subdisticha* were not seen but are inserted only ca. 2.5 cm. apart with a probably incomplete third bract above them. In *R. pachyclada*, the cylindrical rostrate upper bract is inserted ca. 13 cm. above the ancipitous obtuse lower bract and according to Burret exceeds it in length by 17 cm.

RHOPALBLASTE ELEGANS, H. E. Moore, sp. nov.

Caudex solitarius ad 12 m. altus vel altior. Folia regulariter pinnata ad 3.4 m. longa. Inflorescentia breviter pedunculata, ramosa, rachillis pendulis ad 40 cm. longis. Flores masculi 6-7 mm. longi, virescentes. Fructus globoso-obovatus, in vivo ca. 2.6-2.7 cm. altus, 2.3 cm. in diam., in sicco ca. 2.5-2.7 cm. altus, 1.9-2.1 cm. in diam., semine glo-



5. *Rhopaloblaste elegans*. a, portion of rachilla with triads x 1; b, triad with flowers removed x 2; c, portion of rachilla with paired and solitary staminate flowers x 1; d, scars and bracteoles of paired staminate flowers x 2; e, staminate flower at anthesis x 2; f, staminate bud x 4; g, staminate bud in vertical section x 4; h, staminate sepals x 4; i, staminate petal x 2; j, stamens in 3 views x 2; k, pistillode x 2; l, pistillate bud x 4; m, pistillate bud in vertical section x 2; n, pistillate sepals x 4; o, pistillate bud with sepals removed x 4; p, pistillate petal x 4; q, pistil and staminodes x 4; r, staminode x 8; s, fruit x 1; t, fruit in vertical section x 1; u, fruit in cross-section x 1; v, endocarp x 1; w, operculum x 2; x, seed in lateral, abaxial and adaxial views x 1. From material of Moore & Whitmore 9310 preserved in liquid.

boso, 1.7-1.8 cm. in diam., albumine profunde ruminato.

Solitary tall palms tapered from a somewhat enlarged base with a mass of short, stout adventitious roots, ca. 12 m. high or more, 15 cm. in diam. near base, 7.5 cm. in diam. below crown, the bole gray-brown to rather light gray upward with chocolate-brown scales on new internodes. Leaves rather numerous in a handsome spreading crown; sheaths ca. 8.5 dm. long, forming a slender crownshaft, light green with a dense indument of brown scales and appearing brown, pinkish inside, tightly appressed and sticky inside; petiole short, 5-7.5 cm. long, green, concave above, rounded below; rachis straight, covered with dense indument of shining brown fimbriate peltate scales in-

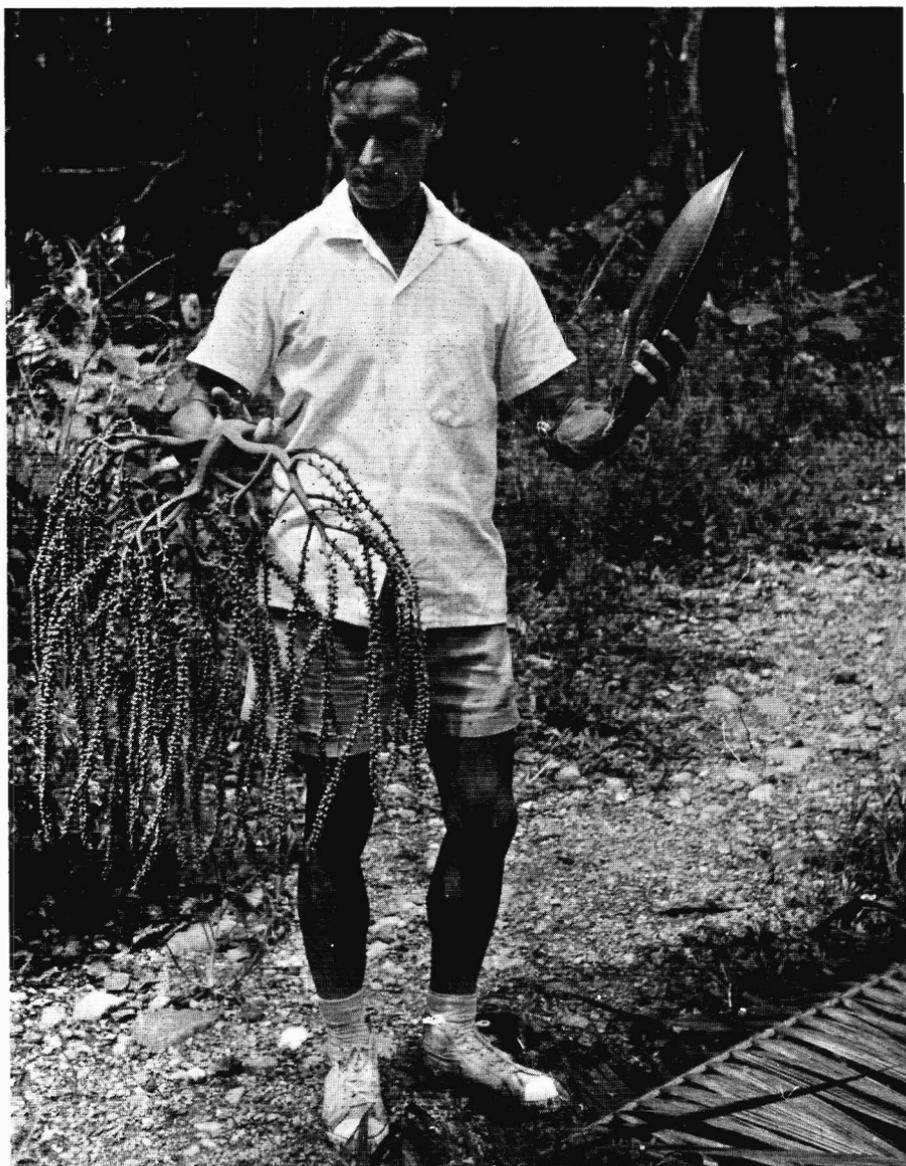
terspersed with deciduous white tomentum below, densely covered with shining fimbriate scales above when young, ca. 3.4 m. long with ca. 76 straight pinnae on each side, these regularly arranged and bent downward at an angle up to 45° with the rachis, light green, stiff, papery, with prominent pale nerves and appearing sub-plicate above, green below, the midnerve elevated and clothed with dark brown or grayish dull twisted basifixed scales above as are also the margins, below clothed with short and moderate shining brown twisted basifixed scales, the secondary nerves ca. 3 on each side, prominent below and scaly or brown punctulate; lower pinnae ca. 30 cm. long, 1.1 cm. wide, pinnae at mid-leaf 64-68 cm. long, 2.7-3.4 cm. wide, upper pinnae 41-26 cm. long, 19-8



6. Light breaking through the forest glints on fronds of *Rhopaloblaste elegans* at the headwaters of the Matanikau River near Honiara on Guadalcanal.

mm. wide, the apex acuminately and obliquely praemorse. Inflorescences 1-3 below the leaves, enclosed in bud in caducous sub-terete green bracts with brown lepidote-tomentose indument, the lower ca. 36 cm. long, laterally keeled,

the keels extending into a flat rostrum ca. 2 cm. long, the upper bract enclosed within the lower, slightly keeled and rostrate, more densely lepidote-tomentose; expanded inflorescence with a short peduncle 6-8 cm. long, orange-green at



7. Mr. Dennis holds inflorescences of *Rhopaloblaste elegans* in bud and expanded. Photograph by T. C. Whitmore.

base, then green, the rachis ca. 30 cm. long, the branches 15-16, the first two divaricate at about a  $90^\circ$  angle with the rachis and with a main axis ca. 23 cm. long, again branched into simple or furcate pendulous flowering axes to ca. 40 cm. long, tipped with a brief sterile

spinose apex, middle branches once-branched, the apical unbranched and to ca. 25 cm. long, triads borne on lower half of the axes, paired or solitary staminate flowers above, the axes somewhat flattened at least basally, the triads scarcely sunken and subtended by a

prominent rounded lip. Staminate flowers glabrous, 6-7 mm. long, greenish, leaving an orange scar on the green axis when fresh, very slightly asymmetric and acutish at apex, the sepals 2 mm. long, 3 mm. wide, slightly keeled basally; petals 5-6 mm. long, 3 mm. wide; stamens 6, the flat white filaments ca. 2.5 mm. long, inflexed at the apex in bud, the yellow anthers 3 mm. long, dorsifixed, briefly bifid at base and apex; dull yellowish pistillode about as high as the filaments, narrowed from an ovate base to a trigonous 3-lobed apex. Pistillate flowers glabrous, subtended by 2 low imbricate bracteoles ca. 1 mm. high, rounded in bud, ca. 4 mm. high; sepals 3 mm. high, 5 mm. wide; petals 4 mm. high, 3 mm. wide; staminodes 4, more or less united basally; pistil ovoid with 3 short erect stigmas; ovule attached laterally. Fruiting axes dull green, the fruit successively green, yellow to orange then crimson with a copious glaucescence when ripe, globose-obovate in a perianth 6-7 mm. high, ca. 26 mm. high, 23 mm. wide when fresh, 2.5 cm. high, 1.9-2.1 cm. wide when dry, the exocarp smooth, mesocarp with longitudinal flattish fibers and thin flesh, endocarp thin, crustaceous, shining, not adherent to seed with a basal operculum; seed globose or depressed globose, 1.7 cm. high, 1.8 cm. in diam., raphe impressed, as long as the seed, branches numerous and reticulate dorsally; endosperm deeply ruminant; embryo large, basal.

Vernacular names: *da'ë* (Kwara'ae language Kwai dialect): *angiriri* (Akui dialect). BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE. GUADALCANAL: north coast, vicinity of Honiara; gully forest 1 mile from coast and 1 mile east of White river headwaters, alt. ca. 500 ft., 27 March 1964, *H. E. Moore, Jr., G. F. C. Dennis & T. C. Whitmore*

9310 [= *BSIP* 4085] (BH, holotype; BSIP, isotype).

*Rhopaloblaste elegans* is surely one of the most elegant palms of the Solomon Islands and represents an extension of range for the genus eastward from New Guinea. Near Honiara on Guadalcanal, it forms extensive open stands in disturbed rain forest over coralliferous raised beach sediments on Mt. Austen which give the forest a distinctive appearance, and when brought into cultivation, as in the garden of Mr. G. F. C. Dennis at Honiara, it shows distinct promise as an ornamental palm, being more delicate than *R. ceramica*. Seed was sent to the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, Florida, and accessioned as FG 64-173. *Rhopaloblaste* also occurs on Choiseul Island where collected three miles inland from Liulu Village in *Pometia*-dominated forest over a dissected limestone plateau (*T. C. Whitmore, BSIP* 4097) but the collection lacks fruit and the specimen available (US) differs slightly in other particulars so that assignment to species must be left until further material is collected. Dr. Whitmore writes that this locality is over a substratum similar to that of Mt. Austen and the species composition of the forest is also similar.

The exact number of species truly assignable to *Rhopaloblaste* is not quite certain but among those described with fruits exceeding 2.5 cm. in length, *R. elegans* differs from both *R. micrantha* Burret\* of New Guinea and the type-

\**Rhopaloblaste micrantha* Burret, Notizblatt Berlin 15: 10, 1940, not *R. micrantha* (Becari) Bentham et J. Hooker ex B. D. Jackson, Index Kewensis 2: 713, 1895. Burret noted that stamens had been destroyed in the material seen by him. Since I have not seen authentic material nor more recent collections agreeing with the description, and since the spreading pinnae and only slightly dissected staminoid ring are not in accord with *Rhopaloblaste* as I know it, it seems premature to provide a new name to replace Burret's later homonym.

species, *R. ceramica*, in having globose-obovate fresh fruits (ca. 2.6 cm. long, 2.3 dm. diam.) which dry with an abruptly rounded rather than gradually tapered apex and seeds globose and rounded at the apex rather than ovoid and acutish. From *R. ceramica*, *R. elegans* differs further in having a much

less robust inflorescence, in having ovoid pistillate buds 4 mm. across subtended by bracteoles 1 mm. high or less as opposed to depressed trigonous-globose buds 6 mm. across subtended by bracteoles to 2.5 mm. high in *R. ceramica*, and in having the triads subtended by a prominent lip-like bractlet.

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Mr. and Mrs. Satake and daughter

### Satakes Visit U. S.

Mr. Toshihiko Satake, prominent manufacturer of rice-milling machinery at Hiroshima, Japan and long an expert on palms, visited Miami from May 28th to 31st. He was accompanied by his charming wife and daughter, Mrs. Fumiko Satake and Mrs. Robert Satake.

Although the two ladies had been here before, this was Mr. Satake's first visit. An expert photographer, he was interested in taking pictures of palms, also in meeting various people with whom he had corresponded, and in trying to find one or more palms not already in his very extensive collection. He was hampered by the fact that the weather was very showery, and that it was the Memorial Day week-end when many persons were out of town. Eventually all aims were achieved, including a one-day trip to Nassau, Bahamas, to see the Langlois and Ericson collections.

Mr. Satake said that he was very much impressed by what he saw, and hinted that he might return before too long. The family had spent a month making a thorough tour of the United States, including a short stay in Ithaca, N. Y. to meet Dr. H. E. Moore, Jr., Director of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University as well as editor of *PRINCIPES*. Dr. Moore is now spend-