

cultivation, but it is there, and will continue to be so, just waiting for other dedicated palm enthusiasts to discover it for themselves.

Although we were unable to find any flowers, the material collected by the three of us is sufficient to show the Stone Gate palm to be clearly distinct from all other species of *Trachycarpus*.

***Trachycarpus princeps* Gibbons, Spanner & S.-Y. Chen sp. nov.**

A ceteris speciebus vagina folii appendicibus tenuissimis ad 10 cm longis ferenti, petiolo valde glauco, lamina infra conspicue albo-ceracea ad medium regulariter in 45–48 segmenta divisa, forma fructus *T. fortunei* similis sed fructu minore mesocarpio glutinoso differt. Typus: China, Yunnan, Nujiang, Chen, Gibbons & Spanner 14440 (holotypus KUN, isotypus K).

Solitary, very lightly armed, dioecious palm to about 10 m tall; trunk erect, slender, densely clothed in closely appressed, persistent, fibrous leaf-sheaths, around 22 cm diam. or bare, ringed, 13–16 cm diam.; leaves 18–26, palmate, marcescent leaves few, sometimes forming a small skirt below the crown, petioles often persisting; leaf-sheath fibrous, relatively coarse, robust, about 45 cm long, abaxially densely covered in pale brown, woolly tomentum; leaf-sheath appendages approximately 10 cm long, very finely divided, upright at first, later strongly reflexed; petiole slender, arching, about 80 cm long, 0.8 cm high and 1.3 cm wide, slightly convex above, triangular below, strongly glaucous, very finely toothed along the margins; hastula shallowly triangular, 1 cm long, regular, crested; leaf-blade, semi- to  $\frac{3}{4}$  orbicular, 60–80 cm long from the hastula, 90–115 cm wide, dark green above, wax-white below, regularly parted for about half its length into 45–48 stiff, linear segments, tapering towards the apex from their broadest point; central segments 3–3.5 cm wide at the middle, lateral segments gradually more narrow and shorter, apex acute-notched, shortly bifid. Inflorescences few, solitary, interfoliar, slightly erect to horizontally arranged; male inflorescences about 50 cm long, branched to 4 orders; peduncle short; prophyll about 18 cm long, very broad; peduncular bract one, around 25 cm

long, very broad, slightly tomentose abaxially; rachis bracts 3, similar to peduncular bracts; rachillae 1–3 cm long, fine and very densely branched; female inflorescences about 75 cm long, branched to 3 orders; peduncle about 20 cm long, peduncular bract one, tubular, 30 cm long; rachis bracts 2, similar to ped. bract; rachillae short, 2–10 cm, fleshy. Flowers not seen. Infructescence bright yellow when fruit are ripe; fruit small, on short stalks, slightly reniform to almost oval, wider than long, 0.8 cm long, 1.0 cm wide, 0.75 cm high; epicarp very thin, black, with a white bloom; mesocarp approximately 0.1 cm thick, spongy-fibrous, coated in a very sticky substance; seed reniform, 0.6 cm long, 0.85 m wide, 0.55 cm high; endocarp pale beige, very thin, very slightly crustaceous sand-like layer on a red-brown skin; endosperm homogenous with a deep lateral intrusion; embryo lateral. Germination remote-tubular, eophyll simple, narrow, plicate, wax-white abaxially.

*Distribution.* China, Yunnan, Nujiang county, 3 km NW of Bingzhongluo on the banks of the Nujiang, on the two almost vertical, bare marble cliffs of the Shi Men Guan (Stone Gate) and below the cliffs in mixed, evergreen monsoonal rainforest on a black, humus-rich, alkaline soil (pH 7.5–8); 1,550–1,850 m a.s.l.

*Specimens Examined.* China, Yunnan, Nujiang county, Sitjitong, Aug. 1916, *H. Handel-Mazzetti* 9802 (Vienna); Nujiang county, Shi Men Guan, Aug. 1916, *H. Handel-Mazzetti* 9818 (Vienna); idem, Oct. 1994, *Chen, Gibbons & Spanner* 14440 (holotype KUN, isotype K).

The specific epithet (*L. princeps*, a prince) refers to the stately bearing of this palm and the majestic way it looks down from its lofty position on the sheer cliff faces.

Note: The description of the seeds is based on two mature and several empty old seeds only.

As there is no recent taxonomic treatment of the genus *Trachycarpus* (but see Beccari 1931 and Kimnach 1977), relationships of *T. princeps* will be dealt with in a conspectus of the whole genus, which will appear in a later publication.

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11. Map shows our route along the Salween River and the location of the Stone Gate in north west Yunnan province, China.

## LITERATURE CITED

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*Principes*, 39(2), 1995, p. 74

## CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

## News from the South Pacific

***Carpoxyton macrospermum***, a study in seed distribution and species conservation. The rare palm, *Carpoxyton macrospermum*, is found naturally only in Vanuatu in the South Pacific. It has been deemed "desirable" for hobby collectors and certain commercial landscaping operations by people familiar with its appearance and growth habit. It is familiar in form to *Clinostigma* and *Veitchia*.

The Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific has set up a "Profitable Environmental Protection" Project to ensure responsible collection and distribution of the seed as well as species conservation, also serving to feed back some revenues to the local populus. This project is partially funded by US AID.

In a logical first step, the PEP project conducted a study of the locations, fruiting status, natural regeneration status, etc. of all *Carpoxyton* trees on the islands. This report was done by a very well known and respected palm expert from Australia, John Dowe of Townsville Palmetum (who is also an IPS and PACSOA member). The report on the exact locations and numbers of natural populations is being held confidential, because "this

data would be very useful to one wishing to unscrupulously exploit the resource."

It was noted, however, that there was almost no seedling regeneration from cultivated palms. The study concluded that marketing of the seeds from ONLY these cultivated specimens would have no detrimental effect on the species recovery plan. Additionally, some seeds and seedlings from the naturally regenerating populations will be used in a species recovery plan in Vanuatu.

A non-profit business has been established on Vanuatu to market the seeds (from the cultivated plants). These seeds will soon be available through the International Palm Society (IPS) and through PACSOA (the IPS Australian affiliate). They are not cheap—a US-landed price to the IPS of US\$6 per seed has been set. The seeds are large so postage is expected to be between \$0.50 and \$1.00 per seed. The IPS Seed Bank will sell these seeds at US\$7 per seed (see ordering information below).

This is the first year pilot project and these extremely rare seeds will soon be available for shipment from California. Order now to be assured of seed. The quantity of seeds expected by the IPS should be sufficient to meet the demand. However, if this is not so, your payment will be promptly refunded.

## CLASSIFIED

**RARE VANUATU PALM SEED!** The IPS Seed Bank is expecting a shipment of freshly collected seeds of the rare *Carpoxyton macrospermum*, a palm native only to Vanuatu. Send US\$7 per seed, payable to the International Palm Society, to IPS Seed Bank, c/o Lynn Muir, 33802 Valencia Place, Dana Point, CA 92629.

This very attractive palm is reminiscent of *Clinostigma* and *Veitchia*, and should prove a valuable addition to your palm garden (see *Principes* Vol. 32(2):63-73. (1989) for related articles). These seeds are being supplied to the IPS by the Peoples Environmental Project run by the Friends of the South Pacific.