

NOMENCLATURAL NOTES

Brahea aculeata

Species of *Erythea* known in cultivation but lacking names in the genus *Brahea* were transferred to that genus (Moore 1975) in preparation for the publication of *Hortus Third* by the staff of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University. The union of *Erythea* with *Brahea* had previously been suggested in a list of recognized palm genera (Moore 1973). *Erythea aculeata* was not then listed in files of cultivated palms, but it is now grown in Hawaii and a name under *Brahea* is needed for it in Baker's list published elsewhere in this issue. The following combination is therefore proposed:

***Brahea aculeata* (Brandege) H. E. Moore, comb. nov.**

Erythea aculeata Brandege, *Zoe* 5: 196. 1905.

LITERATURE CITED

- MOORE, H. E., JR. 1973. The major groups of palms and their distribution. *Gentes Herb.* 11: 27-141.
 ———. 1975. Nomenclatural notes for *Hortus Third*: *Palmae*. *Baileya* 19: 168.

H. E. MOORE, JR.
 L. H. Bailey Hortorium
 Cornell University
 Ithaca, N.Y. 14853

NOTES ON CULTURE

A Note on Mulching in South Florida

One of our members, Mr. Frederick W. Shick, of Naples, Florida, has lovely palms in a lovely setting along the edge of a body of salt water. He was asked to tell about the method he uses to mulch his garden, which was a delightful place. The mulch made for a

soft, attractive feeling and appearance underfoot. Here is his report:

"Approximately ten years ago I found that I was spending a considerable amount of time weeding the beds under and around a pepper hedge that was about 450 ft long. In order to cut down on this weeding, I decided to mulch the entire bed heavily, using the chipped material that a local tree trimmer was disposing of from his trimming operations. (In many Florida cities a coarse shredding machine reduces the size of the cut material so a truck holds far more than it could if branches were just loaded.) The first couple of truck loads I received from him I put on as received to a depth of about six inches.

"It wasn't long until I discovered that the consistency of the material varied considerably, at which time I decided to invest in a good shredder. Although this proved to double the amount of work, since the mulch had to first be put through the shredder and then spread on the beds, it not only improved the looks of the beds mulched, but also made the mulch deteriorate much faster and hence a better compost.

"All this proved so satisfactory as a weed deterrent under the pepper hedge that I next eliminated the wedelia ground cover around all my palms and mulched everything heavily—up to 12"—with the exception of the lawn area. Two benefits have been derived from this mulching:

1) It has practically eliminated the need for fertilizing and

2) it has proved to be an ideal germinating medium for the seeds that drop.

"I would advise anyone thinking of doing this NOT to accept any trimmings that include palm material since it does not chip well, and is hard to handle because of its being stringy.