

considered the same as the common and well-known wild Date of India, *P. sylvestris* Roxb. It is, however, clearly distinguishable by its different habit, stouter trunk, shorter leaves, with more rigid, dark green, shining, non-fasciculate segments and black fruit. It is a common plant in Ceylon, but is not known in South India save in the Botanic Gardens. The fruit has a scanty pulp, which is scarcely edible. Linnæus's original *Elate sylvestris* (Sp. Plant. i. 1189) was mainly based on this plant (= Fl. Zeylanica, n. 897), but he also quotes Rheedee, 'Hort. Malab.,' iii., tt. 22-25, which is probably the common Indian species. Whether the other Ceylon *Phoenix*, noted in a former part of this paper as *P. pusilla* Gaertn., is truly a distinct species may be open to doubt, but both it and *P. zeylanica* are quite different from the yellow-fruited *P. sylvestris* of India.\*

I have been accustomed for some years to call our Palm *P. zeylanica*, and the name has also been published for it in the List of Palms cultivated at Kew, printed as an appendix to the Report of that establishment for 1882. Sir Joseph Hooker, who has made a careful study of the genus, is convinced of the distinctness of the Ceylon plant.

**Calamus nivalis** Thw. ms.—Leaf-sheaths armed with copious large, straight, flat, yellow prickles, passing on the rachis beneath and at the sides into distant, solitary, recurved ones; no terminal cirrhus; rachis raised above, smooth; segments numerous, closely placed, equidistant, broadly linear, tapering at both ends, with 3 principal nerves and other intermediate ones, with a few distant scattered setæ on the principal nerves beneath and at the apex; spadix slender, elongated, set with hooked thorns, extended into a terminal thorny lorum, slightly branched; flowering branchlets usually short, numerous but not crowded, more or less stiffly recurved; larger spathes prickly, smaller ones slightly so or smooth; bracts ciliate; male flowers crowded, with scanty fulvous scurf; calyx cut half-way down; petals and stamens raised on a stalk so that the former appear as long again as the calyx; female flowers larger and less crowded; corolla 3-toothed, fulvous-puberulous; fruit  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. long, with a large point or beak, ovoid; scales small, pale yellow, not channelled, tipped, and narrowly bordered with reddish brown.

Hab. Pasdun Korle, Sept. 1864; Colombo, *W. Ferguson* (C. P. 8914 in Herb. Perad.). Not a large species. Leaves about 3 ft. long, the longest segments about 9 or 10 ins., bright pale yellow-green.

A near ally of *C. tenuis* Roxb., which differs in its general furfuraceous covering, smaller more distant and usually hermaphrodite flowers on shorter branchlets, and nearly globular fruit with larger scales. I am indebted to Mr. W. Ferguson for fresh specimens in flower, collected about five miles from Colombo by the Koti Canal.

\* The fruit of this is, when ripe, 1 in. long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, and of a dull purplish orange, having passed through in ripening a bright orange-chrome yellow; the pulp is more copious, with a sweet flavour quite similar to that of the cultivated date.