

Butia leptospatha (Burret) Noblick **comb. nov.** Fig. 3.

Syagrus leptospatha Burret, Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin Dahlem 15:105. 1940. Type: Brazil, Mato Grosso, Boliche Seco, Campo Grande, Archer & Gehrt 3915 (Holotype: SP-36429, isotype: US).

Syagrus leptospatha was discovered in 1936, described by Burret (1940) and not recollected again until 58 years later in 1994 (Pedro Juan Caballero, Paraguay). Glassman (1987) wrote that it was "probably extinct." Today, its former habitat is dominated and threatened by soybean cultivation. Phylogenetic character analyses of the Attaleinae show that *Syagrus leptospatha* aligns closely with *Butia* species (Noblick unpublished), rather than with other *Syagrus*. *Butia leptospatha* (Fig. 2) differs from *Syagrus* by having no noticeable deep grooves in its onion skin-like, paper-thin bracts. Its leaf anatomy as illustrated in Glassman (1987) shows vascular bundles on both the adaxial and abaxial surface as in other *Butia* (*Syagrus* species have vascular bundles only on the abaxial surface). *Butia leptospatha*, *B. campicola* (Barb. Rodr.) Noblick and *B. exospadix* have dark purple fruit, are acaulescent, have spicate inflorescences, have long peduncles that (usually) project the inflorescence in fruit above the peduncular bract (sometimes

substantially so) and have the narrow grass-like leaflets. Based on its smooth peduncular bracts, its leaf anatomy, the phylogenetic analyses and its similarity to two other *Butia* species, I am here in transferring *Syagrus leptospatha* to *Butia*.

Guillermo Marmorì has discovered two new species of *Butia* in Paraguay. The first was collected in 1980, and the site is now under water. The second was discovered in 1993 from a region just west of the Itaipu reservoir. The 1980 discovery is *Butia exospadix*, and the 1993 discovery is *Butia marmorii*.

Butia exospadix Noblick **sp. nov.**, palma graminiformis, solitaria trunco acaule et subterreano; folium reduplicato-pinnatum foliolis 6–10, congestis, rhachide foliorum 3–10 cm longa; spica super spatham exerta. Typus: Paraguay, Canindeyú, Itanana, L.R. Noblick & T. Rios Otero 5305 (Holotypus: PY; isotypi: FCQ, FTG, K, NY). Fig 4.

Stem solitary, acaulescent, subterranean 10–20 cm in diam. Leaves 2–7 in the crown, spirally arranged and spreading; leaf sheath plus petiole ca. 6–11 cm long, adaxially channeled and abaxially rounded, and glabrous; petiole without the leaf sheath 0–3 cm long and 0.3–0.5 cm wide and 0.2 cm thick at the base

3. Herbarium specimen of *Butia leptospatha* showing its spicate inflorescence and its very short, onion-skin thin peduncular bract (Archer & Gehrt 3915).

