The name honors Richard W. Palmer of Whittier, California, who has encouraged and supported Hodel’s work on palms and especially that on Chamaedorea. Chazdon, in a report on the palm flora of Braulio Carrillo National Park (Brenesi 28: 107–116, 1987), referred to C. palmeriana as Chamaedorea sp. “bifida.”

Similar to C. amabilis in habit, C. palmeriana can be distinguished by its blades bifid at the apex to at least half, rather than one-fourth, their length; half the number of nerves on each side of the rachis (12–14 rather than 20–25); and the staminate flowers angular rather than globose. From C. simplex, it is distinguished by the thinner blades with more nerves (12–14 rather than 6–7) and dentate margins; the erect and branched, rather than spicate and pendulous, staminate inflorescences.

Chamaedorea palmeriana is relatively widespread, occurring in very wet forest from Veraguas Province in Panama westward to at least the upper reaches of the Río Sarapiquí in Costa Rica. It occurs mainly on the Atlantic slope in Costa Rica and Panama. However, in Panama where the Continental Divide is at a lower elevation, C. palmeriana is sometimes found just over it on the Pacific slope.

An attractive species often flowering when no more than 30 cm tall, C. palmeriana is noted for its simple, deeply bifid, corrugated, emerald green leaves. In the wild or when well grown, it is a very leafy plant, often holding 7–10 leaves in a handsome and compact crown. Unfortunately, like other species of the genus from wet, cool, relatively high areas, C. palmeriana is somewhat difficult to cultivate.

Chamaedorea correae D. R. Hodel & N. W. Uhl. sp. nov. (Figs. 6,7).


Stem solitary, procumbent with prostrate portion longer than erect portion, to 2–3 m long, briefly erect apically to 1 m tall, rooting at the nodes where touching the ground, slender, 5–10 mm diam., ringed, nodes swollen, internodes 5–10 cm long.

Leaves 4–5, erect-spreading, dull green or gray-green, ± thick, simple and bifid or infrequently pinnate; sheath to 15 cm long, tubular, tightly clasping, obliquely open at the apex, light green, longitudinally striate-nerved; petiole to 10 cm long, gray-green and flat adaxially, rounded and gray-green abaxially with a pale yellow or light green band extending from the rachis onto the sheath; rachis 5–15 cm long, gray-green and angled adaxially, rounded and pale abaxially; rachis, petiole, and upperpart of sheath densely but minutely white-spotted; blade simple and deeply bifid apically to three-fourths its length, 15–25 cm long, lobes broadly divergent, 15–25 × 4–12 cm, lanceolate, slightly sigmoid, acuminate, 8–10 primary nerves adaxially, exterior margin toothed toward the apex, or infrequently blade pinnate with a pair of small basal pinnae, these lanceolate, sigmoid, acuminate, narrowed at the base, 8–12 × 1.5–3 cm, 2–3 prominent nerves adaxially.

Inflorescences infrafoliar, erect-ascending, slender. Staminate inflorescence with a peduncle 10–15 cm long; bracts 5–6, tubular, tightly sheathing, flaring abruptly apically, longitudinally striate-nerved, acute-acuminate, bifid, prophyll 5 mm long, 2nd bract 1 cm long, 3rd 2–3 cm long, 4th 4 cm long, 5th 6–8 cm long, 6th 8–
10 cm long, uppermost not exceeding the peduncle; rachillae 2–3 or sometimes spicate, flower-bearing portion 15–20 cm long, 1.5 mm diam., ascending, finely longitudinally striate. Pistillate inflorescence spicate or less often furcate; peduncle 15 cm long, erect-ascending, or nodding when laden with fruits; bracts similar to those of the staminate; rachis or flower-bearing portion to 15–20 cm long, 2 mm diam., finely longitudinally striate, ascending in flower, horizontal and red-orange in fruit.

Staminate flowers, rather densely arranged, subglobose in immature bud, 2 × 2.5 mm, greenish-yellow, just prior to anthesis 2.5 × 2 mm, yellowish, ± superficial; calyx low, 2.5–3 mm across, membranous, 3-lobed, lobes connate basally; corolla with the petals valvate, connate only briefly basally, spreading apically, petals rounded-triangular, 2–2.5 × 2.5 mm, acute, obscurely nerved; stamens with the filaments very short, anthers 0.75–1.25 mm long, flush against the base of the pistillode; pistillode columnar, 1.5–2 mm high, green or yellowish, broadly lobed apically, flared at the base and there adnate to the filaments. Pistillate flowers, rather densely arranged, ovoid-globose, 2 × 2 mm, greenish-yellow, ± superficial; calyx green, 2.5 mm across, 3-lobed, lobes 1–1.25 mm high, sepals connate briefly basally, ± fleshy; corolla with the petals imbricate basally, spreading apically, yellowish, 2–2.5 × 2 mm, long-triangular, acute; pistil globose, pale or greenish, 2–2.5 × 2 mm, styles short, stigmas flattened, recurved, pointed. Fruits ellipsoid-globose, black, 5–8 mm long.

Distribution: PANAMA. Veraguas. Coclé. Colón. Dense, wet forest and cloud forest mainly on the Atlantic slope at or near the Continental Divide, 800–1,000 m elevation. Probably endemic.

Specimens Examined: PANAMA. Veraguas: Santa Fe, S. Knapp & W. Kress 4358 (MO); S. Mori 6717, 6775 (MO); R. Liesner 1001 (MO) (Fig. 6); C. Hamilton & R. Dressler 3075 (MO). Coclé: El Valle, W. H. Lewis et al. 1775 (BH, MO); K. Sytsma 3806 (MO); S. Knapp 5296 (MO); El Copé, T. Croat 44680, 49190 (MO); T. Antonio 3037 (MO); J. Folsom 1272, 2491, 3191 (MO); J. Folsom et al. 5735 (MO) B. Hammel 2413 (Fig. 7), 2604, 13649 (MO); H. E. Moore Jr. 10531 (BH); El Potroso, K. Sytsma 1814 (MO); Los Pedregales, Cerro Tife, S. Knapp & R. Dressler 3801 (holotype, MO; isotype, PMA); Cerro Caracora, J. Kirkbride 1097 (MO). Colón: Santa Rita Ridge, H. Churchill 5547 (MO).

The name honors Mireya Correa, well known botanist and professor at the University of Panama. With creeping stems that root at the nodes and thickish and somewhat leathery, gray-green leaves, C. correae is one of the most distinctive members of the genus. It inhabits wind-swept, elfin forest near or at the Continental Divide. C. correae is close to C. guntheriana but can be distinguished by its larger leaves with broader, more divergent lobes, longer peduncles, and flowers attaining anthesis at more or less the same time along the axis rather than in a conspicuously progressive, basal to apical manner.

Chamaedorea guntheriana D. R. Hodel & N. W. Uhl. sp. nov. (Figs. 8, 9,11).

Subgeneris Chamaedoropsis Oerst. Species egregia foliis parvis rigidis, laminis segmentis paucis paribus apicalibus latioribus vel raro simplicibus bifidis, inflorescentis furcatis vel rachillis 3 raro spicatis, petalis liberis, flavis; C. correae D. R. Hodel & N. W. Uhl affinis sed floribus masculis maturensibus conspicue secus axem e basi ad apicem differt. Typus: D. R. & M. A. Hodel 746 (holotypus, BH; isotypus, PMA).

Stem solitary, erect or procumbent, to 1 m tall, 5–7 mm diam., smooth, green, ringed, conspicuously and minutely white-spotted, internodes to 2–4 cm long.

Leaves 4–5, spreading, ± stiff, ± thick,