## The Palms of British East India.

Spadix (fruit-bearing,) 2 feet long, nodding, compressed: the lower half concealed by the spathes of which there are three, two common ones, and one to one of the main branches. They are coriaceous, brown, with oblique mouths, and bilobed limbs, the lowest is about a foot long. Branches of the spadix quite exserted, quite naked, the terminal one dichotomous: divisions many. Spikes 4-6 inches long.

Fruit scarcely baccate,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines broad, solitary or 2-3 together, but of distinct carpels, oblong, inæquilateral, obliquely apiculate at the apex, surrounded at the base by the calyx which has a stout cylindrical base, and three deep, broad oblong divisions, by a corolla of three cordate ovate petals, equal in length to the calyx, and by six sterile stamina: on one side may be found two abortive villous ovaries. Seed oblong, with the ventral face rather deeply furrowed, the furrow not reaching quite to the apex, reniform on a transverse section. Albumen with a scaly surface, along this line presenting a cavity filled with spongy tissue: horny, otherwise equal. Embryo in the centre of the dorsal face.

This species is closely allied to C. Martiana: it differs in its shorter stouter stature, the petioles toothed throughout, in the nature of the rete, and the texture of the leaves which is more like that of C. humilis. The paleaceous tomentum much more developed, and the berries are blueish, not yellow. The divisions of the leaves are much the same, excepting the secondary segments of the central divisions, which are shallow, obtuse and recurved.\*

\* Chamærops Ritchiana, (n. sp.) nana, sæpius subacaulis, petiolis inermibus, fibrillitio subnullo, lamina profunde palmatim 10-15 partita, laciniis induplicatosissimis ultra medium bipartitis, segmentis rigidis angustis gradatim acuminatis.

HAB.-Khybur Pass, and generally in the low arid mountainous parts of Eastern Affghanisthan. Pushtoo name *Maizurrye*. Not observed in flower or fruit.

DRSCR.\*—A small Palm, scarcely exceeding 2-3 feet in height, generally tufted, and generally almost stemless. There is scarcely any *rete*, but the bases of the petioles, where naturally covering each other, present a rust-coloured wool. *Leaves* from 20 inches to 3 feet in length, whitish-glaucous, coriaceous. *Petiole* 

 From specimens brought from Affghanisthan, and a few seeds received from the Scharunpore Garden, of which one germinated in the H. C. Botanic Gardens.

342

\*