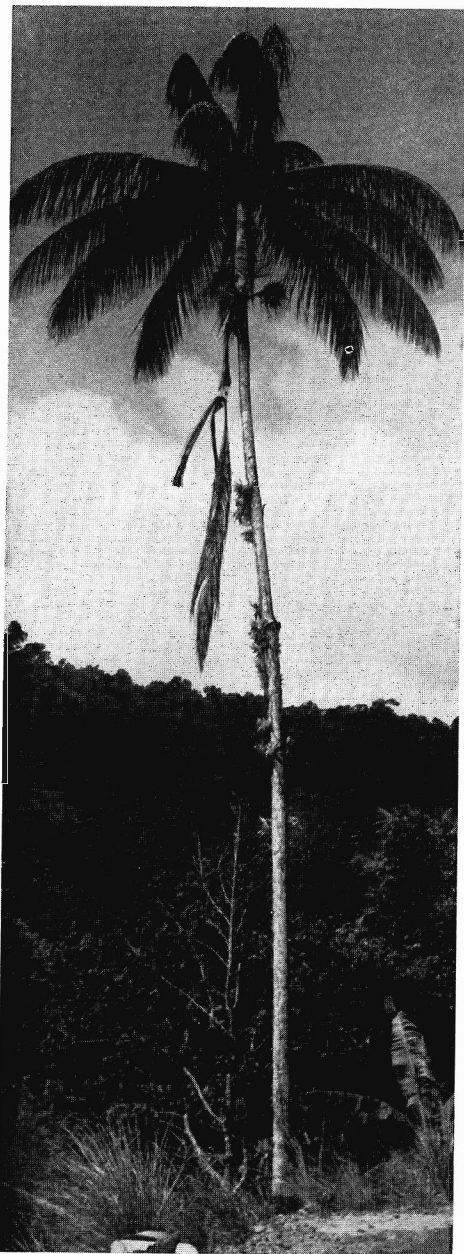


ARTICLE 36. EUTERPE IN WEST INDIES.

† *Euterpe dominicana*, spec. nov. § Euterpopsis. Fig. 237.

Arbor tenuis, inermis: truncus solitarius: folia 3-5 m. longa, læventia; pinnæ multæ, pendentes, angustæ, longo-acuminatæ, glabræ; costa fortis prominensque; venæ laterales multæ, non crassæ; margo crassus; maximæ pinnæ 4-5 cm. latæ ad medium: spadices infrafoliares; rachillæ graciles, angulatæ, pubescentes, cinereo-albæ, 5-7 mm. diam.; flores permulti, parvi, in alveolis immersi, 3-4 mm. longi, flores pistillati minores quam staminati, sepala florum staminatorum imbricata ciliataque, petala valvata: fructus rectus, depresso-globularis, niger, 9-10 mm. diam., stylus persistens; semen liberum, 7-8 mm. diam. tenuibus applanatisque fibris tectum; albumen durum, non ruminatum, embryo apicale.

Tall, slender, 15-25 m., bearing an open spreading head of 12-18 long graceful leaves of which the middle ones are nearly horizontal, pinnæ drooping from the rachis, the tree with much the aspect of *Roystonea oleracea* even to a hanging delapsed leaf; trunk single, obscurely ringed, straight or when tall perhaps somewhat out of perpendicular, about 3 dm. diam. at base, furnished at top underneath the leaves with a crown-shaft (leaf-bases) 1.5-2 m. long; leaf-sheath much expanded, glabrous, closely ridged on both surfaces: leaves light green, 3-5 m. long, bearing very many pairs of narrow moderately firm glabrous pinnæ; rachis about 4 cm. broad at base, flat-convex underneath, glabrous except for the scurf that weathers away; pinnæ at center of leaf about 1 m. long and 4-5 cm. broad at middle, very long-pointed, midrib strong and elevated on both surfaces, side veins several on either side but not prominent and many close fine intermediate veins, margins smooth but elevated or thickened, all other pinnæ much narrower: spadices 5 or 6, borne at bottom of crown-shaft, standing horizontally or nearly so when spathes have fallen; peduncle short, about 25 cm. long including the broadly expanded base, the main part double-convex in cross-section and edges obtuse, close-pubescent but weathering nearly smooth; rachis stout, about 4 dm. long, bearing many terete ascending rachillæ or strands that are compactly tomentose-pubescent and after flowering deeply pitted with alveoles and 4-5 dm. long; flowers closely placed on the gray-white angled rachillæ which at flowering time and in the dry state are 5-7 mm. thick; staminates very numerous and borne on the whole length of the strands and sunken at base into the alveoles, on the pattern of three with the central flower pistillate but commonly one or two flowers suppressed, 3-4 mm. long, triangular, 3 broad ciliate sepals strongly imbricate, 3 projecting nerved petals connivent, valvate and forming a cone, the lobed pistillode short and stout, 6 stamens erect, sagittate large anthers on short straight filaments; pistillates rather smaller than staminates and standing beneath and between them, pistil closely involved in the tight perianth-parts, the minute calyx remaining in the alveole and one ciliate petal inclosing the others: fruit black at maturity, globular but flattened at ends, style persisting at the apex, 9 or 10 mm. diam., not equilateral, glabrous, tightly sessile in its alveole, the explanate accrescent



237. THE HANDSOME TALL PALMISTE of Dominica, *Euterpe dominicana*. The crown-shaft is at the top of the trunk above the flower-cluster balls; below it are discharged old leaves caught on the clusters and hanging. Epiphytes are seen midway of the bole.

floral parts closely applied to base; seed free inside the exocarp, 7-8 mm. diam. including the thin tight fibers; albumen very hard, white, plane, embryo apical.

Dominica, British West Indies, W. H. and Barbara T. Hodge, abundant in moist forests bordering Pegoua River in vicinity of Deux Branches, Concorde Valley, no. 3494 (type); common in rain-forest bordering Imperial Road, Sylvania, altitude 549 m., no. 1168. Known as Palmiste; cabbage or terminal bud edible.

Close ally to this species is *E. Broadwayæ* of Tobago and Trinidad, which differs in being sometimes gregarious (trunk more than one), with fluffy-tomentose brownish terete rachillæ, flower-buds larger and broader and mostly placed singly, fibers on seed chaff-like and looser, seed smaller. From *E. oleracea* and *E. edulis* of South America *E. dominicana* differs in habit, plain (not ruminant) albumen, closely tomentose rather than nearly or quite glabrous rachillæ, and other details. From *E. Langloisii* it is separated by its greater size and its fruit with apical rather than lateral stigma or beak as well as rachillæ more slender and more pubescent-tomentose, pinnæ broader. The common West Indian *E. globosa* is separated by its deeply ruminant albumen and many other characters.

Mention of *Euterpe Broadwayæ* calls for explanation of the name inasmuch as it is commonly

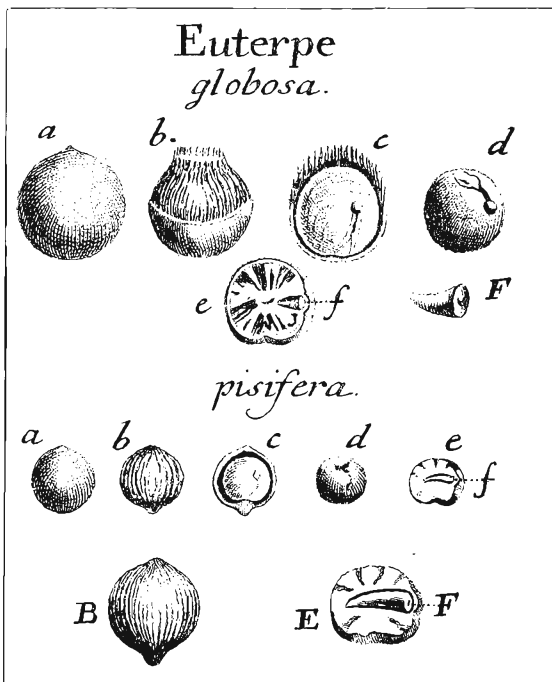
written *Broadwayana*. The formal technical diagnosis is by Beccari in Fedde, Repertorium specierum novarum regni vegetabilis, xvi, 436 (1920) as *Euterpe Broadwayana*. In 1916, however, it was briefly described as *E. Broadwayæ*, Becc. (n. sp.) by W. E. Broadway in his Palms of Tobago in Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago, xv pt. 5, p. 174, "named after the discoverer's daughter, Elsie." The Broadway account is brief, but it cites localities on Tobago where it was first found, "trunk single or several together," "flowering parts fluffy in which are subsequently imbedded the fruits," which are two good characters of separation. I had talked with Broadway about the case; he wanted the palm named particularly for his daughter and he annotated my copy of the Bulletin in 1922 to the effect that *Broadwayæ* was the name first adopted by Beccari and that the subsequent publication in 1920 was *Broadwayana*. Broadway material of the species from Tobago, as well as from Trinidad, is before me. Some of it is ticketed by Broadway, "*Euterpe Broadwayæ* Becc. (n. sp.)".

Validity of the generic name Euterpe

Inasmuch as the applicability of the name *Euterpe* to western hemisphere palms has been challenged, we may examine the case now that we are involved in the genus.

Euterpe is a genus of New World pinnate-leaved unarmed palms of 39 species as accepted by Burret in Engler Botanisches Jahrbücher, lxiii, 1929, to which others have now been added. The species range from Cuba southward in many of the West Indies, Nicaragua to Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil, with many kinds in Colombia. For the most part they are palms of intermediate stature, often delicate and graceful in foliage and decorative when planted.

Validity of the generic



238. THE GENUS *EUTERPE* by Gaertner, 1788, t. ix. See explanation on page 379. *E. pisifera* (except fig. B) is *Heterospatha pisifera*.