



2. *Geonoma epetiolata*. a, portion of stem with leaf sheath and leaf, $\times \frac{1}{2}$; b, portion of stem with inflorescence, $\times \frac{1}{2}$; c, pit, $\times 8$; d, staminate flower, $\times 8$; e, anther and apex of filament, $\times 22$; f, pistillate flower, $\times 8$; g, fruit, $\times 3$. a, d-f, from Dressler 4777 (BH), b, c, g, from Mori et al. 3909. Plate by Mitsu Nakayama.

smaller dimensions and fewer ribs, which is strongly reminiscent of the leaf of *Bactris simplicifrons* Mart. *Geonoma divisa* is probably more closely related to the widespread *G. deversa* (Poit.) Kunth but may be distinguished from the rare individuals of that species having the leaf undivided by the very prominently elevated, narrow ribs on the dull upper surface of the leaf blade.

***Geonoma epetiolata* H. E. Moore, sp. nov.** (Fig. 2).

Caules ad 2.3 m alti. Folia epetiolata longe cuneata subtus rubra. Inflorescentiae spicatae pedunculis quam spicibus brevioribus. Florum masculorum stamina 6, femineorum tubus staminodialis crenato-truncatus. Fructus ovoideo-ellipticus ca. 8 mm longus.

Holotype: *Dressler 4777* (BH).

Plants 1.5–2.3 m high; trunk ca. 1.5 cm in diam. at base, 0.6–0.85 cm in diam. below uppermost inflorescence, internodes ca. 0.8–2 cm long.

Leaves ca. 10; sheath 8–8.5 cm long, densely brown-tomentose at the sides, prominently diagonally ribbed and with a network of veins and veinlets opposite the blade at the truncate apex; petiole not developed; blade plicate, narrowly elongate-cuneate, bifid 11–14 cm at apex, dark green or mottled dark and light green above, red or purple beneath; rachis ca. 34.5–53 cm long, brown-tomentose laterally beneath, glabrous above, ribs ca. 45–50 on each side at an angle of ca. 15° with the rachis, often bearing membranous scales beneath, glabrous and elevated ca. 0.5 mm above.

Inflorescences several, interfoliar but persisting below the leaves in fruit, spicate; peduncle shorter than the spike, ca. 6.5–9 cm long, tomentose at first, glabrescent and roughened in age, often with 1–3 acute bracts subtending empty pits between the peduncular bract and spike; prophyll ca. 6–8.5 cm long, 6 mm wide, caducous or marcescent, tomentose when young, inserted ca. 0.5 cm above base; peduncular bract inserted 1.5–1.7 cm above and about equalling the prophyll, softly hairy; spike ca. 19–22 cm long, 4 mm in diam., densely brown-tomentose when young, with tomentum persistent about the pits in age, the pits spirally arranged, ca. 5–6 mm between equivalent points in the spiral (or 1–2 mm apart), ca. 1 mm across, 3 mm high, the lower lip becoming deeply bifid, the upper lip narrow, entire.

Staminate flowers ca. 3 mm long; sepals slightly shorter than petals; stamens 6, the anthers with divaricate locules not extended in a line with the filament; pistillate flowers with perianth ca. 3 mm high; staminodial tube exerted, crenate-truncate; stigmas 3, recurved.

Fruit ovoid-ellipsoid, ca. 8 mm long, 5 mm in diam., acute, with fibers in pericarp evident externally when dry.

Specimens examined: PANAMA. VERAGUAS: Guabal (Río Dos Bocas), about 16 km NW of Santa Fé, ca. 500 m alt., 15–16 Nov 1974, *Dressler 4777* (BH, holotype; MO, isotype); floor of upland forest NW of Santa Fé, 8.8 km from Escuela Agrícola Alto de Piedra, Pacific slope, 20 Dec 1974, *Mori, Kallunki, Cochran, Cochran, Hansen, Kowal, & Nee 3909* (BH, MO).

Geonoma epetiolata is readily distinguished from other species having spicate inflorescences and the peduncle shorter than the spike (cf. species 20–27 in Wessels Boer 1968) by the lack of petiole and the red or purple lower surface of the leaf.