

rowed by Lee and Wei in Guilin, who found that it had been collected in Yangchun, Guangdong. Afterwards three specimens of the same palm, one in staminate flower, one in pistillate flower and one in fruit, were found in the Herbarium at Guilin among the unnamed specimens by two of us (Lee and Wei). The structure of the flowers and the remarkable reduplicate leaves suggest that the two taxa are congeneric.

The generic name we have chosen for these two strange palms, *Guihaia*, is based on the ancient name for the area of Guilin and Guangxi. It is also the name of the journal of the Guangxi Institute of Botany in Guilin.

***Guihaia* J. Dransf., Lee & Wei, gen. nov.**

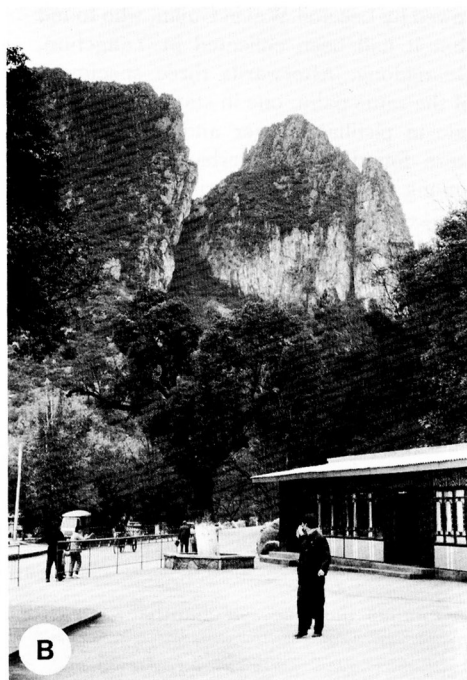
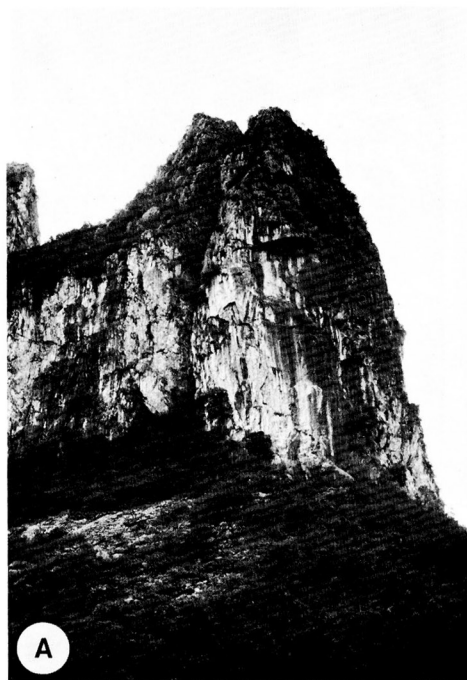
Palmae dioeciae, pleonanthae, caespitosae, humiles, ad coryphoideas pertinentes. Caudex brevis vel brevissimus, fibris vaginalibus spiniformibus vel cancellatis tectus. Folia palmata, flabellata vel suborbiculata, in segmenta reduplicata fere $\frac{3}{4}$ vel $\frac{1}{2}$ radii fissa, hastula adaxiali circulari, hastula abaxiali nulla, lamina supra atroviridi subtus dense argyrato-villosa vel glabra, margine minute serrulata. Inflorescentia staminata pistillatae similis, axillaris, solitaria, in ordines usque 4 ramificans; prophyllum elongatum, tubulosum, bicarinatum; rami primarii 2–5; rachillae numerosae, gracillimae; flores staminati minuti, symmetrici; sepalae 3, liberae vel fere, imbricatae; petalae 3, $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ longitudinis connatae; stamina 6, epipetala, antheris rotundatis, didymis; pistillodium nullum; flores pistillati staminatibus similes, carpellis 3, liberis, glabris; fructus glabri rotundati vel ellipsoidi; endospermium homogeneum a chalaza distincte penetratum. Genus *Maxburretiae* et *Rhapidis* affinis et forsitan inter duo genera intermedium.



4. *Guihaia argyrata* growing in crevices.

Typus: *G. argyrata* (Lee & Wei) Lee, Wei & J. Dransf.

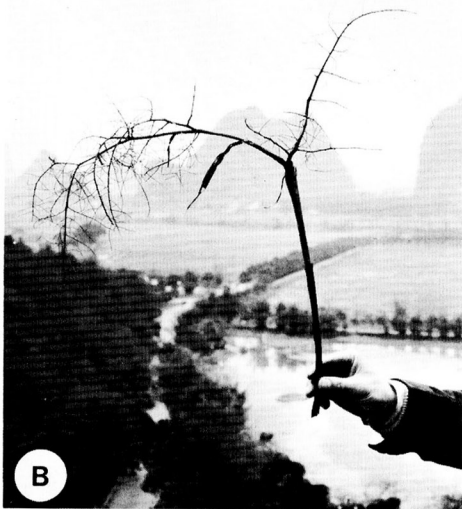
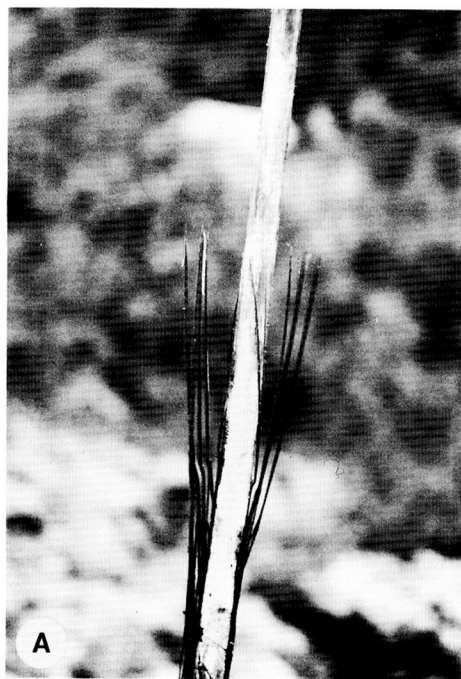
Dwarf, clustering, pleonanthic dioecious palms. Stem decumbent or erect, short or very short, petiole bases and sheaths persistent or deciduous. Leaves reduplicate palmate, marcescent; sheath tubular at first, distintegrating into an interwoven mass of coarse, erect, black, spine-like fibers (Fig. 6A) or into a tongue-shaped lattice of coarse flat fibers; petiole moderate, unarmed, abaxially rounded, adaxially flattened or slightly rounded, the margins quite sharp, bearing caducous woolly hairs or glabrous; adaxial hastula rounded, glabrous or bearded with woolly hairs; lamina orbicular or cuneate, rather small, divided to $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the radius or nearly to the insertion along the abaxial ribs into several (ca. 20) \pm linear, 1- or



5. A. *Guihaia argyrata* grows on the talus slope at the foot of the cliffs. B. Limestone hill on the outskirts of Guilin, the type locality of *Guihaia argyrata*.

rarely 2-fold reduplicate segments, minutely bifid at the tips, the outermost segments consisting of $\frac{1}{2}$ folds only, the margins of the segments minutely toothed or smooth. Lamina adaxially dark green, glabrous except for scales along the ribs, abaxially covered with a dense felt of silvery woolly hairs or glabrous except for scattered dot-like scales; transverse veinlets conspicuous or obscure. Inflorescences (Fig. 6B) solitary, axillary, interfoliar, branching to 4 orders, staminate and pistillate superficially similar; prophyll elongate, tubular, 2-keeled, thin somewhat coriaceous, apically splitting along 2 sides, glabrous or bearing caducous hairs; peduncle elongate, \pm flattened, caducously scaly; peduncular bracts absent or 1, similar to prophyll; rachis longer or shorter than the peduncle; rachis bracts ca. 2–5, similar to the prophyll but not 2-keeled, with tattering limb; 1st order branches 2–

5, adnate to the rachis to just below the insertion of the following bract; subsequent bracts minute, scarcely evident; rachillae spreading, very slender, \pm straight, glabrous or bearing scattered caducous scales and spirally arranged solitary flowers borne on very low swellings. Staminate flower extremely small, symmetrical; sepals 3, free except at the very base, basally imbricate, \pm rounded to ovate, abaxially bearing hairs and fringed with wool-like hairs; petals longer than the sepals, connate in the basal ca. $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$, with rounded lobes distally, glabrous; stamens 6, the filaments not forming a staminal tube, but completely adnate to the corolla, anthers \pm rounded, didymous, apparently inserted directly on to the corolla, latrorse; pollen (Fig. 7) elliptic, monosulcate, with finely reticulate, semitectate exine; pistillode absent. Pistillate flower similar to the staminate but perhaps more rounded;



6. A. Fiber spines developed at the base of the petiole of *G. argyrata*. B. Dead staminate inflorescence of *G. argyrata*.

sepals as in staminate; petals only slightly longer than to more than twice as long as the sepals, joined in the basal $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$; staminodes 6, minute, borne directly on the petals; carpels 3, free, glabrous, \pm abruptly narrowed to short style, ovule basally attached. Fruit developing from only 1 carpel, rounded to ellipsoidal, the stigmatic remains apical, the abortive carpels basal; epicarp glabrous, blue-black and bearing thin white wax; mesocarp very thin, fleshy; endocarp papery. Seed with lateral hilum, \pm flattened on one side, with well defined rounded intrusion of integument; endosperm homogeneous, embryo lateral. Germination and eophyll not known.

Key to Species of *Guihaia*

Stem very short, usually completely obscured by the old leaf sheaths; leaves strongly discoloured with a dense felt of silvery hairs abaxially;

leaf sheath disintegrating into spines; apex of sepals obtuse, externally pilose, the margins ciliate, internally lacking scales; fruit rounded

..... *G. argyrata*

Stem ca. 1 m tall, clothed with old leaf sheaths only at the tip; leaves only slightly discoloured, abaxially with scattered dot-like scales; leaf sheath disintegrating into a lattice of flat fibers, the margins remaining entire; apex of sepals mucronate, externally glabrous, the margins not ciliate, internally bearing scales; fruit ellipsoidal

..... *G. grossefibrosa*

1. *Guihaia argyrata* (Lee & Wei) Lee, Wei & J. Dransf., comb. nov.

Trachycarpus argyratus Lee & Wei in *Guihaia* 2(3): 131. 1982. Type: China, Guangxi, Yanshuo, 27.5.1964, *F. N. Wei* 937 (holotype IBK).

Low clustering fan palm to ca. 1 m tall; stem decumbent or erect, very short, ca. 3–5 cm diam., sometimes up to 0.5 m tall, with very close leaf scars, the stem