Beccari based his description of this species (as Ptychoraphis philippinensis) on Cuming 1476 collected in Albay Prov., Luzon. This particular collection (seen at FI and K) is, however, a mixture. The portion of inflorescence, rachillae, and flower buds clearly belong to Heterospathe elata. The holotype in FI consists of rachilla fragments and flower buds only; the isotype in K consists of a portion of an inflorescence and an apical leaf segment. Beccari (1909) himself had noted that Cuming distributed this palm "with flowers only". However, the protologue (Beccari 1886) contains a description of the leaf which matches that of the leaf segment in the Kew sheet of Cuming 1476. This leaf specimen is typical of H. philippinensis as later interpreted by Beccari (1909, 1919a, 1919b) and in this paper. It is curious that Beccari did not cite the Kew material of Cuming 1476 in the protologue nor in any of his subsequent treatment of the species but it appears that he actually examined it.

H. philippinensis is a widespread Filipino species occurring in lowland forests at c. 300 m to mossy forests at 1400 m alt. Solitary, as well as clustering individuals of this species have been observed.


Clustering, slender, undergrowth palm to 2 m tall. Stem c. 1.5 cm diam.; internodes to 2 cm long. Leaves pinnate, to 8 in crown, arching; young leaves reddish-brown; leaf including petiole to 50 cm long; leaf sheaths not forming a well-defined crownshaft, each to 10 cm long, folded, scaly, and drying striate, the edges not readily marcescent; petiole slender, c. 20 x 0.3 cm, flattened adaxially, convex abaxially and covered with scattered, brown, peltate-lacerate scales, the edges sharply angled; the leaves including sheaths and petioles abscissing neatly from the stem; rachis covered above and below with brown, tomentose scales, rather dense, especially near leaflet bases. Leaflets 2–10 on each side of the rachis, very rarely of a single pair, uni- to pluri-costate, regularly arranged, spaced 2–4 cm apart, linear-elliptic with long acuminate tips to sigmoidal or slightly falcate towards apex, midribs and secondary nerves prominently elevated, the margins slightly thickened; ramenta prominent along midribs on undersurface, with smaller peltate-lacerate scales along secondary nerves, and the surface of the lamina puncticulate; basal leaflets 1- to 3-costate, c. 37–41 x 0.8–2.3 cm; middle leaflets generally unicostate, c. 34–41 x 0.7–1.2 cm; apical leaflets 2- to 5-costate, c. 26–38 x 1.3–4 cm. Inflorescences infrafoliari, arching, 18–45 cm long, branching to 1 order only; peduncle c. 14–23 x 0.5 x 0.3 cm, covered with tomentose scales; prophyll c. 8–13 x 1.1–8 cm, flattened and 2-keeled, splitting apically, the surface lepidote-puncticulate; peduncular bract attached below middle of peduncle, to 34 x 2 cm, tubular near base,
Fig. 3. *Heterospathe scitula*. A, B habit $\times \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}$; C stem with sheaths and basal portions of petioles and an infructescence $\times \frac{1}{2}$; D basal portion of leaf with petiole and leaflets $\times \frac{1}{2}$; E apical portion of leaf $\times \frac{1}{2}$; F staminate flower $\times 7\frac{1}{2}$; G vertical section of staminate flower $\times 7\frac{1}{2}$; H fruit $\times 2\frac{1}{4}$; I seed $\times 4$; J vertical section of seed $\times 4$. A from Fernando 501, B–J from Fernando 506. Drawn by E. A. Lapitan and F. B. Samiano.
flattened near apex, splitting abaxially, the surface covered with ribbon-like to tomentose scales; rachillae 4–5, each c. 14–20 × 0.3 cm, terete, lepidote-tomentose; triads borne spirally along rachilla and subtended by low, lip-like bracts c. 1 × 1.5 mm. Staminate flower oblong, c. 3 × 2.5 mm; sepals 3, imbricate, shorter than the petals, c. 1.75 × 2 mm, ciliolate along the margins; petals 3, valvate, ± equal, striate when dry, acute at tip, 2.75 × 2 mm; stamens 6, anthers dorsifixed, 2 mm long, filaments 1 mm long, pistillode conical, 1.5 × 1.75 mm, trifid. Pistillate flower rounded in bud, shorter than the staminate flower, c. 1.75 × 1.5 mm; sepals 3, imbricate, c. 1.75 × 1.5 mm, rounded with acute tips, sparsely ciliolate along the margins; petals 3, imbricate at base with valvate tips, unequal, c. 1 × 0.5 mm; pistil conical, 0.75 × 0.3 mm; staminodes minute, flattened, tooth-like, borne at base of pistil. Infructescence with arching rachillae. Fruit spirally arranged to 3 lax series, white, ripening orange-tinged then glossy red, spherical, c. 8 × 6 mm, stigmatic residue obliquely apical, epicarp drying granulose with sclerosomes. Seed globose, c. 5 × 5 mm, with prominent hilum; endosperm ruminate. (Fig. 3).

**Distribution & Habitat.** Luzon (Bicol Peninsula: Camarines Norte Prov. and Albay Prov.); in lowland dipterocarp forest on gentle slopes; c. 100–200 m. Endemic.

**Luzon.** Camarines Norte Prov., Buhi, Canicosa 1434 (LBC), Mabesa 863 (LBC), Basud, Tuaca, Fernando 465 (LBC), Bicol National Park, Lagrimas 374 (LBC), Fernando 493 (K, LBC), 495 (LBC), 501 (K, LBC), 506 (holotype K; isotypes BH, LBC), 511 (LBC), & 559 (LBC), Hernaez 2919 (CAHP) & 3846 (CAHP), locality not known, Fischer F.B. 21752 (FI); Albay Prov., Daraga, Vidal 935 (K).

*H. scitula* is certainly one of the most elegant species of palms indigenous to the Philippines. This species is similar to *H. philippinensis* and *H. dransfieldii* but differs in its neatly abscissing, shorter leaves with fewer leaflet pairs, and in its infrafoliolar inflorescence. Two forms of *H. scitula* occur even within the same habitat: one with leaves having about 8–10 pairs of mostly unicostate leaflets; and the other with leaves having about 1–6 pairs of leaflets, mostly pluricostate. The two forms are otherwise indistinguishable. Both leaf character states have also been occasionally observed on different stems within the same clump.


This species is still known only from the type specimen. Attempts to recollect it from the type locality have been without success. Beccari (1919a, 1919b) distinguished this species from *H. elata* on the basis of the shape of the fruit and seed, as well as on the presence of ramentae on the leaflet undersurface. Examination of the holotype and isotypes of *H. sibuyanensis* show that, indeed, it is distinct from *H. elata* in fruit and seed characters.