*Chamaedorea macroloba* is known only from a limited population at the type locality, where it grows on a slope in very humid forest.

Because of its superficial flowers with nerveless perianth and the petals of the staminate flowers coherent only at apex, this species belongs to subgenus *Chamaedorea* section *Chamaedoreopsis,* according to Burret's (1933) treatment.

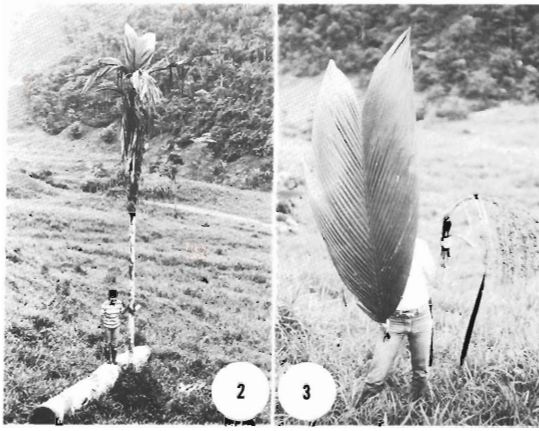
*Chamaedorea macroloba* is closely related to *C. warscewiczii* H. Wendl., which is known only from Costa Rica and Guatemala. It differs from *C. warscewiczii* mainly in its leaves obovate instead of ovate in outline, and in its very large apical pinnae occupying more than half of the rachis, a character that was observed to be consistent within the population at the type locality, and that does not appear to be present in *C. warscewiczii.*

It is true that some Costa Rican palms have been recently discovered in northwestern Colombia [e.g., *Chamaedorea deckeriana* (Klotz.) Hems. and *Prestoea decurrens* (H. Wendl. ex Burret) H. E. Moore], a fact that stresses the phytogeographical affinity of both areas. Nevertheless, the differences between Colombian and Costa Rican individuals of these species are negligible, whereas the difference in leaf shape between *C. warscewiczii* and *C. macroloba* is so remarkable, that it is difficult to think that only one taxon is involved.

**Prestoea simplicifolia** Galeano, sp. nov. (Figs. 2 and 3)

Caudex solitarius 7 m usque altus. Lamina simplex, oblonga, apice bifurcata, 192–250 cm long, 66–90 cm lata. Nervi primarii utrinque 36–42 cum rachidi angulum 10–30° formantes. Pedunculus inflorescentiae quam rachis aliquanto longior. Rachillae 45–46. Fructus globosus; albumen ruminatum.

Solitary. Stem 2–7 m high, ca 7 cm diam, brown; internodes 9–11 cm long. Leaves 4–9, erect; sheath 60 cm long, open, with fibrous margins, not forming a distinct crownshaft, light brown when fresh, covered with reddish-brown fibrous scales; petiole 7–8 cm long, 1.7 cm wide at apex, green when fresh and young, violet when mature, adaxial surface slightly concave, deciduously scaly, abaxial surface convex, covered toward the margins with a scaly indumentum like that of the sheath; rachis 140–176 cm long, green when fresh, adaxial surface flat at base, acute distally and produced at apex into a slender thread to 20 cm long, abaxial surface convex, scaly toward the margins like the sheath; blade simple, oblong in outline, 192–250 cm long, 66–90 cm wide at the middle, with 36–42 primary veins on each side, forming an angle of 10–30° with the rachis, ca 1.5–2 cm apart, prominent and acute on the adaxial surface, less prominent and with thick, fasciculate, whitish hairs on the abaxial surface; secondary veins as prominent abaxially as the primary ones, only one between each two primary veins; tertiary veins inconspicuous on the adaxial surface, prominent and yellowish abaxially. Inflorescence interfoliar to infrafoliar, once branched, 171 cm long, reddish in fruit when fresh; prophyll 34 cm long, ca 7 cm wide, oblong, acute, fibrous; peduncular bract inserted 7 cm above the prophyll, one seen ca 160 cm long, 7 cm wide, oblong, acute, fibrous; peduncle 64–75 cm long, 1.5 cm diam, subterete, provided near the apex with a bract 4–5 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, long-triangular, acute, rigid; rachis 63–69 cm long, densely covered with an indumentum of very small, light brown crusty trichomes; rachillae 45–46, each subtended by a bract that in the basal rachillae is triangular, to 3 cm long, ca 1 cm wide; rachillae pendulous but rigid, ca 3 mm diam, with an indumentum like that of the rachis, the basal ones 69–74 cm long, the apical 43–44 cm long. Staminate flowers at anthesis 4–5 mm long; sepals 1–1.5 mm long, broadly ovate, acute, with ciliate margins; petals 4–5 mm long, ca 1.5 mm wide, triangular to oblong, acute; stamens 6, the filaments ca 3 mm long, tapering toward the apex; pistillode deeply trifid, ca 1 mm long, shorter than the stamens. Pistillate flowers before




FIGS. 2 and 3. *Prestoea simplicifolia*. 2. Habit. From this plant the specimens of *Restrepo et al. 1* were collected. 3. Leaf and infructescence with immature fruits.

anthesis 3–4 mm long, 2.5–3 mm diam, apparently recently fertilized ovoid, 5–6 mm long, 4 mm diam; sepals broadly ovate; petals broadly imbricate, ovate, acute; gynoecium ellipsoid; stigmas recurved; staminodes 6, deltoid. Fruits (nearly mature) globose, 7–9 mm diam; stigmatic residue lateral; endosperm ruminate. Eophylls bifid.

TYPE: COLOMBIA. Departamento de Antioquia: Municipio de Frontino, corregimiento de Murrí, río Cuevas, 950 m alt., 20 Mar 1982, *R. Bernal & G. Galeano 261* (HOLOTYPE: COL; ISOTYPE: HUA, NY). PARATYPES: same locality, Mar 1984, *D. Restrepo et al. 1* (COL, MEDEL); same locality, 18 Feb 1985, *A. Henderson & R. Bernal 140* (COL, JAUM, NY); same region, ca 1200 m alt., 19 Sep 1983, *R. Bernal, G. Galeano & I. Turner 708* (COL, NY).

In addition to the region cited above, this species was observed also, but not collected, near río Venados, Frontino, Antioquia, some 40 km to the South. In the latter region, it is known by the common name of "lindona" and its leaves are used for thatching. No name or uses were recorded at the type locality.

*Prestoea simplicifolia* is a very characteristic species because of its huge, simple, oblong and short-petiolate leaves, and its large inflorescence with peduncle as long as or longer than the rachis.

In the undivided leaves and the appearance of the inflorescence, *P. simplicifolia* resembles *P. pubigera* (Griseb. & H. Wendl.) Hooker, from Trinidad and Venezuela. Nevertheless, *P. pubigera* appears to be a much more delicate palm, and its measurements, as given by Bailey (1940) and Wessels-Boer (1971), are so small compared to those of *P. simplicifolia*, as to be mutually exclusive. The inflorescence is smaller in *P. pubigera*: peduncle 10–15 cm long versus 64–75 cm in *P. simplicifolia*; rachis ca 25 cm long versus 63–69 cm; longest rachillae 10–15 cm

long versus 69–74 cm. The pistillode in *P. pubigera* is columnar versus deeply trifid in *P. simplicifolia*. Furthermore, in *P. pubigera* the leaves are almost twice as small as those of *P. simplicifolia*, and they are often irregularly pinnate, whereas in the new species the leaves are consistently undivided in all individuals of the two known populations.

Although I refer this new species to *Prestoea*, it is worth noting that there are some incongruities in Moore's (1963) delimitation of the genera *Prestoea* and *Euterpe*. My own limited field and herbarium work has shown that most differences established by him are not broadly usable, unless for extreme species [e.g., *Euterpe cuatrecasana* Dugand, *E. kalbreyeri* Burret, and *Prestoea decurrens* (H. Wendl. ex Burret) H. E. Moore]. Some species cannot be exactly referred to either genus as delimited by Moore; they seem to be transitional species. Two of these species are *Euterpe purpurea* Engel (e.g., as represented by *Bernal & Galeano 373, Galeano & Bernal 136, 256, 482,* at COL), and another species fitting the description of *E. oocarpa* Burret (*Bernal & Galeano 383, 550,* at COL). They share characters of both *Prestoea* and *Euterpe*: in habit, crownshaft, indument of rachil lae and flower shape, they would be typical species of *Prestoea*, but the short petiole, the short peduncle, the closely inserted prophyll and peduncular bract, and the somewhat compressed rachis are characters of *Euterpe*.

Even the more readily ascribed *E. cuatrecasana, E. kalbreyeri* and *Prestoea decurrens* show incongruities in Moore's differences between the genera. For example, Moore noted that the rachillae in *Euterpe* are not bulbous at base; yet *E. cuatrecasana* (*Bernal & Galeano 480, 670,* at COL) and *E. kalbreyeri* (*Bernal & Galeano 303, 307, 360,* and *Henao et al. 291,* at COL) have bulbous rachillae. Also *Euterpe* is said to have pinnate eophylls, but *E. cuatrecasana* has bifid eophylls. Although anatomical and chemical studies tend to support two distinct groups (R. Read, pers. comm.), it is necessary to establish a clearer separation of such groups. On account of the not generally applicable differences used by Moore, I had initially referred this new species to *Euterpe* sensu lato, following Burret's (1929) treatment. Nevertheless, it seems more convenient to refer it to *Prestoea* awaiting a better understanding of the group.

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