

Kerr's diary is so exact in its details that I felt sure that if forest still existed at Talang, then the palm might be relocated. A palm enthusiast friend in Bangkok, Commander Watana Sumawong, was contacted and he passed on the information and request to Mr. Charal Bhoonab, Director of the Khao Chong Botanic Garden near Trang in South Thailand. Charal relocated the palm and was able to take me straight to it 50 years and 1 week after Kerr's visit. The palm was in young fruit; despite an intensive search we could find no fresh flowers and only 2 more or less ripe fruit. Yet there were sufficient details to suggest we were indeed dealing with an undescribed genus. Then, early in 1981 Charal forwarded staminate and pistillate flowers in spirit, and Dr. Tem Smitinand forwarded a staminate collection from a second locality near Surat Thani. The palm is here described as *Kerriodoxa elegans*.

Kerriodoxa J. Dransf. gen. nov. Palma solitaria inermis acaulescens vel erecta dioica pleonantha foliis palmatis induplicatis ad Coryphoideas pertinens. Petiolus marginibus quam novaculis acutis, basi vaginanti primo integra dein contra petiolum findenti; hastula adaxialis conspicua. Inflorescentia staminata erecta dein arcuata, bracteis primariis conspicuis triangularibus spiraliter dispositis basi tubulosis, ramos subtendentibus quos in ordines 4 ramificantes turbam rachillarum tomentosarum facientes. Flores staminati in tuberculis demissis singulatim vel binatim dispositi, bracteolis minutis subtenti; calyx basi tubulosus lobis 3 angustis apiculatisque, corolla basi stipitata, petalis 3 anguste-triangularibus; stamina 6 filamentis gracilibus antheris latrorsis. Inflorescentia pistillata erecta quam staminata

robustior, in ordines 2 ramificans, ramis ultimis tomentosus superficialiter articulatis. Flores pistillati in tuberculis demissis singulatim vel binatim dispositi; calyx tubulosus lobis 3 brevibus; corolla basi columnaris stipitata lobis 3 triangularibus; staminodia 6; ovarium carpellis 3 apicibus liberis ad centrum connatis, stigmatibus paulo reflexis; ovula anatropa singulatim in basi carpelli disposita. Fructus 1-seminalis (raro 2-vel 3-seminalis) epicarpio granuloso vel papilloso, mesocarpio spongioso, et endocarpio exili; vestigium stigmatibus basali; endospermium vadoso-ruminatum, embryo sub-basali.

Kerriodoxa elegans J. Dransf. sp. nov. Palma formosa solitaria acaulescens aut erecta trunco dense annulato-cicatricoso usque 5 m alto, ca. 20 cm diametro; petiolus usque 2 m longus; lamina \pm circularis ca. 2 m diametro, valde discolor; inflorescentia staminata usque 45 cm longa, floribus usque 3 mm longis; inflorescentia pistillata usque 75 cm longa, floribus ca. 5 mm longis. Fructus maturus globosus basi concavo-depressus aurantiacus ca. 4.5 cm diametro.

Typus: Thailand, Phuket, *Dransfield JD 5421* (holotypus K: isotypi AAU, BH, BKF, L).

Solitary dioecious, unarmed, moderate, pleonanthic induplicate palm, acaulescent or with a short grey erect trunk to 5 m tall, ca. 20 cm diam., with very close nodes, usually obscured by leaf bases, but ultimately becoming smooth. Leaf base sheathing at first, later splitting opposite the petiole, and not encircling the stem, not fibrous; petiole to 2 m, dark shiny green covered with grey indumentum when young, semicircular in cross-section when fresh, ca. 26 \times 15 mm, distorting on drying, the two margins extremely sharp;

1. *Kerriodoxa elegans*. A, habit $\times 1/50$; B, portion of petiole with sharp margins $\times 2/3$; C, surface of part of lamina $\times 1/7$; D, adaxial hastula $\times 2/3$; E, abaxial view of insertion of lamina $\times 1/5$; F, detail of tip of lamina segment $\times 2/3$. A from a photograph, B-F from *Dransfield JD 5421*. Drawn by Heather Wood.