

there. It is frequent in cultivation in the western hemisphere from southern Florida to Rio de Janeiro; fragmentary specimens from Singapore appear to be the same. The specific name is from Latin *lagena*, flask or bottle, and *caulis*, a stem.

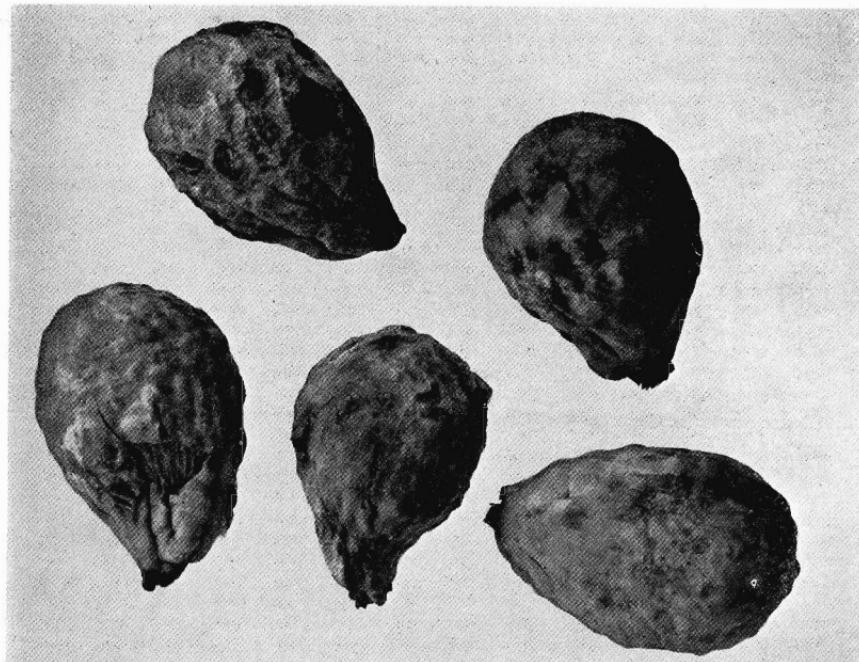
It is apparently not known what stature this palm attains, or whether in age it develops such a long slender trunk or neck as seen in Fig. 30 representing *M. Revaughanii*.

Type of *Mascarena lagenicaulis* is material in Herb. Bailey from the Montgomery plantations, Coconut Grove, Florida, No. 716, all from one tree.

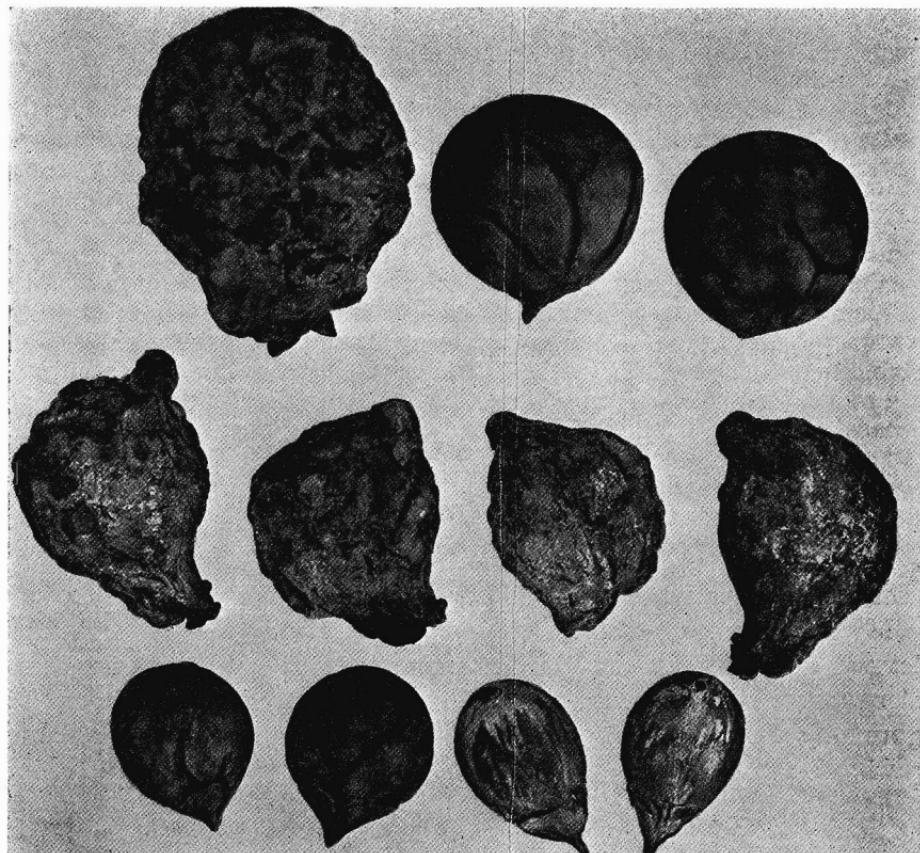
† 3. *Mascarena Verschaffeltii*, trans. nov. Figs. 43, 50, 58, 59, 60.

Hyophorbe Verschaffeltii, Wendl. in Ill. Hort. xiii, sub. t. 462-3 (1866); Balf. f. in Baker, Fl. Mauritius & Seych. 383 (1877).

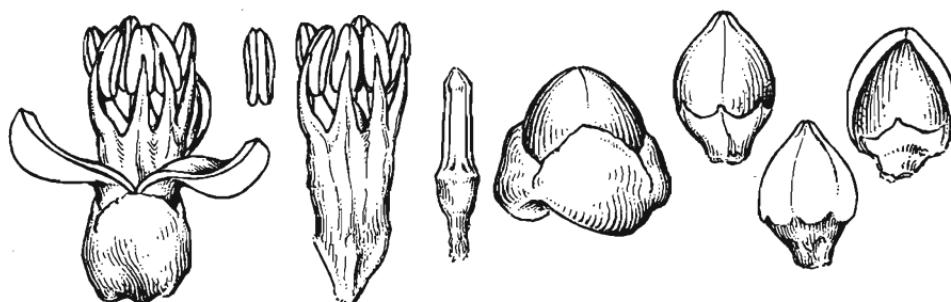
Strictly erect tree, 6-10 m. tall, the bole not contracted to the inflorescence or much swollen at base but usually constricted at the middle, tumid where the flowers and fruits are borne, head of many curving leaves on which the pinnæ are diffuse and some of them drooping, lacking the stiffness and ascending direction of the foliage of *M. Revaughanii* and *M. lagenicaulis*: leaves 2 m. long more or less, petiole only 10-12 cm. long, broad, flat above but at the blade developing a bordered groove or valley on upper



47. MATURE FRUITS of *Hyophorbe indica*, sent fresh in liquid from Réunion. Natural size. When these fruits are dried at Ithaca they assume irregular shapes of those in middle row in Fig. 48.



48. FRUITS AND SEEDS of the two *Hyophorbes*, natural size; photograph of dry material directly from the Mascarenes. Top, a fruit and two seeds of *Hyophorbe Vaughanii*. Middle, fruits of *Hyophorbe indica*, and bottom row seeds of same.



49. STAMINATE AND PISTILLATE FLOWERS of *Hyophorbe Vaughanii*, $\times 4$; open flowers $\times 6$. Mauritius. Separates show an anther and pistillode.

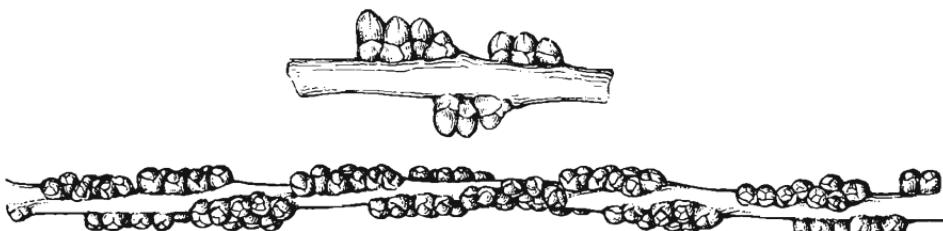
side that becomes a central sharp ridge on the rachis, rounded or convex on the under side; pinnæ more than 50 pairs, nearly opposite or somewhat staggered, separated 1–2 cm. on the rachis, base expanded but not flattened, 30–50 cm. long and 2–3 cm. broad, narrowly long-pointed, glabrous unless flaky on the rib underneath, midrib prominent on both sides and many fine nerves but no strong side-ribs, apical pinnæ conspicuously narrow: flower-clusters borne on the bulge at apex of trunk and base of stout long crown-shaft, often several of them at the same epoch from the elongated spathal stage or bud to open flowers and fruits, the brush-like projecting stoutly peduncled flowering spadix 75 cm. or more long, the many slender rachillæ hanging in fruit: flowers in short lines or acervuli on the rachillæ, small, the staminates 4–5 mm. across when expanded; stamens 6, attached at center or toward base of petals, anthers twice or more as long as broad, pistillode columnar and not prominent: fruit oblong to short-cylindric, 12–18 mm. long and 8 mm. thick, blunt at apex, black, glabrous, persistent envelopes at base not much developed, sarcocarp thin and watery, adherent to the seed along at least one side; seed cylindric-pointed, about 10–12 mm. long and one-half as broad, brown, with faint raphal lines; embryo lateral about midway, in plain and hard albumen.

Rodriguez. Frequent in cultivation southern Florida to Rio de Janeiro, a handsome shapely tree; I have it also from Singapore.

My adoption of the name *H. Verschaffeltii* is based mostly on the fruit pictured by Wendland and Lemaire rather than on full acceptance of the colored plate and the description. This is probably the *Raphia vinifera* figured by Descourtilz in Flore Pittoresque, second edition (1833) as growing in the Antilles.

Now we may recount the interesting but devious botanical history of the plum-nut palms.

The botanical nomenclature (pronounced nò-menclature, accent on the first syllable) begins with Joseph Gaertner (1732–1791) in the second volume of his scholarly *De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum* published at Tubingen, Germany, in 1788 and 1791. Gaertner prepared two volumes, in Latin, describing the fruits and seeds that had been assembled by collectors



50. LINEAR ACERVULI OR FLOWER-CLUSTERS of *Mascarena Verschaffeltii* above, and of *M. lagenicaulis* below. Nearly twice natural size. Each acervulus or little heap has a pistillate flower or two at base. Above, the acervulus has flowers in single row; bottom, more or less in two rows.