



4. *Rehderophoenix subdisticha*. a, portion of rachilla with triads x 2; b, triad with flowers removed x 2; c, staminate flower at anthesis x 1; d, staminate bud x 2; e, staminate bud in vertical section x 2; f, staminate sepals x 2; g, staminate bud with sepals removed x 2; h, staminate petal x 2; i, stamens in 3 views x 2; j, pistillode x 6; k, pistillate bud x 4; l, pistillate bud in vertical section x 4; m, pistillate sepals x 4; n, pistillate bud with sepals removed x 4; o, pistillate petal x 4; p, pistil and staminodes x 4; q, staminodes x 4; r, portion of rachille in fruit x 1; s, fruit in vertical section x 1; t, fruit in cross-section x 1; u, seed in lateral, adaxial and abaxial views x 1. From material of Moore & Whitmore 9300 preserved in liquid.

gives the vernacular name as *tangan-danu* in the Sabatu dialect.

REHDEROPHOENIX SUBDISTICHA H. E.
Moore, sp. nov.

Rehderophoenici pachycladae similis sed fructibus in rachilla subdisticthe vel disticthe dispositis, minoribus et ad apicem rotundatis, florum masculorum staminibus ca. 190, bracteis inflorescentiarum inter se 2.5 cm. disparatis differt.

Solitary; trunk to 12 m. high, 10.6 cm. D.B.H., brown and closely ringed, somewhat enlarged at base with emergent adventitious roots to 20 cm. long. Leaves 10-15, spreading; sheaths forming a crownshaft, ca. 6 dm. long, dark green with white indument of floccose scales and dark margin; petiole short, ca. 7.5 cm. long, rounded and floccose-scaly or brown-punctulate below,

slightly concave and punctulate above; rachis 2.4 m. long, pale-floccose scaly when young becoming punctulate in age; pinnae ca. 25 on each side, deep glossy green above, dull green below in age but prominently glaucous when young, the apices obliquely to bluntly praemorse, basal pinnae ca. 50 cm. long, 4.1 cm. wide with praemorse-acuminate apices, median pinnae ca. 50 cm. long, 7.5 cm. wide, apical pinnae ca. 20 cm. long, to 3.9 cm. wide, midnerve and margins thick, secondary nerves to 8 on each side, glabrous above, with scattered small white branched trichomes on some of the nerves below when young but not becoming prominently punctulate. Inflorescences 2-3 below the leaves, to ca. 50 cm. long, light green in flower, dark green in fruit, white-floccose scaly, especially on peduncle and rachis, when

young but glabrescent in age, stiffly branched into 12-14 branches, the lower branches once-branched, the upper unbranched, rachillae to 23 cm. long, 4 mm. wide, angled and flexuous especially toward the apex; bracts subtending the inflorescence 2, not seen but scars of insertion ca. 2.5 cm. apart with the scar of a third and probably incomplete bract above; flowers in triads of 2 staminate and a pistillate for the most part, these slightly impressed and subtended by a very narrow bractlet when fresh, superficial and the bractlet not obvious when dry, arranged subdistichously to distichously in a slight spiral nearly throughout the axes. Staminate flowers light green, ca. 10 mm. long when dry, symmetric; sepals 3-4 mm. high, 5-6 mm. broad, gibbous basally, the margins more or less crenulate and sometimes minutely ciliate; petals ca. 9 mm. high, 6 mm. broad, navicular; stamens ca. 190 with white filaments and light brown anthers; pistillode broadly ovoid, lobed apically; pistillate flowers in bud 6 mm. high; sepals 3.5-4 mm. high, ca. 5 mm. wide, rounded and sometimes crenulate; petals ca. 5 mm. high with brief valvate apex; staminodes 3, denticiform; pistil ovoid, the ovule pendulous. Fruit orange-red when mature, ellipsoid, ca. 1.9-2.0 cm. long, 1.4 cm. in diam. when fresh, becoming 1.1-1.2 cm. in diam. when dry; exocarp densely and minutely roughened over included sclerosomes when dry; mesocarp thin with several layers of longitudinal fibers over the fragile yellowish endocarp; seed oblong-ellipsoid, ca 1.1 mm. high, 9 mm. in diam. essentially terete in cross-section, with impressed anastomosed raphe-branches, the raphe extending along one side of the seed; endosperm homogeneous; embryo basal.

Vernacular names: *basibasi* (Kwar-ae language); *ori* (Bogotu language).

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE. SANTA YSABEL: Bogotu Peninsula, occasional on slopes of ridges behind Nangalao Village near Tatamba, 0-500 ft. alt., 20 March 1964, *H. E. Moore, Jr. & T. C. Whitmore 9300* [= *BSIP 2588*] (BH, holotype; BSIP, isotype).

Rehderophoenix subdisticha is the second species to be described for the genus. It differs from *R. pachyclada* of San Cristoval Island in the much smaller inflorescence (5 dm. vs. 1 m.) with slender rachillae (4 mm. vs. 8 mm.) on which the triads are arranged in essentially distichous fashion through a low spiral on the axis, the fruits appearing two-ranked rather than in a distinct spiral with fruits several-ranked. The fruits, themselves, are smaller (1.9-2.0 cm. vs. 2.5 cm.) and abruptly rounded rather than tapered at the apex, with a smaller perianth in fruit (6 mm. vs. 9 mm.) the seeds oblong-ellipsoid rather than ellipsoid. Staminate flowers have ca. 190 stamens as opposed to ca. 290 stamens in *R. pachyclada*.

Bracts subtending the inflorescence of *R. subdisticha* were not seen but are inserted only ca. 2.5 cm. apart with a probably incomplete third bract above them. In *R. pachyclada*, the cylindrical rostrate upper bract is inserted ca. 13 cm. above the ancipitous obtuse lower bract and according to Burret exceeds it in length by 17 cm.

RHOPALBLASTE ELEGANS, H. E. Moore, sp. nov.

Caudex solitarius ad 12 m. altus vel altior. Folia regulariter pinnata ad 3.4 m. longa. Inflorescentia breviter pedunculata, ramosa, rachillis pendulis ad 40 cm. longis. Flores masculi 6-7 mm. longi, virescentes. Fructus globoso-obovatus, in vivo ca. 2.6-2.7 cm. altus, 2.3 cm. in diam., in sicco ca. 2.5-2.7 cm. altus, 1.9-2.1 cm. in diam., semine glo-