

branches of a compoundly-branching spadix in the axil of a leaf with a long compressed glabrous peduncle. Spathes several, smooth, complete. **MALE.** Perianth very minute. Stamens 6, included, united into a ring. Budimentary pistil a column as long as the stamens, capped by a triquetrous disk. **FEMALE.** Staminodes forming a minutely-toothed cup. Fruit small, black, elliptical; stigma subbasilar; mesocarp thin, fibrous; endocarp crustaceous. Seed ascending, elliptical, slightly oblique; raphe spreading from the base, its branches anastomosing on the side opposite the hilum; albumen loosely ruminant; embryo basal. **DISTRIB.** The only species.

1. **R. melanochoetes**, *Wendl. MSS.* Palm 15–25 feet high, with many aerial roots and a stem 2–3 in. in diameter, with a ring of spines when young below each leaf-scar. Leaf  $4\frac{1}{2}$ –7 feet long; petiole  $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, smooth, subtriquetrous, grooved down the face with a pale band running from the top of the sheath down the back of the petiole; leaf-sheath  $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, with a few fine black spines rising from a compressed cushion; blade pale green, 3–5 feet long, 2–3 feet broad, entire when young, unequally pinnate; pinnæ  $1$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, bifid at the apex, with many primary veins  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 in. apart, clothed on the under side with medially-attached scales. Spadix  $2\frac{1}{2}$ –6 feet long; peduncle 1–3 feet long, compressed, an inch thick; branches very slender, flattened at their insertion. Spathes marginate. Fruit  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. long; scar of stigma very prominent. Seeds sometimes 2 (*Horne*). *Verschaffeltia melanochoetes*, *Wendl. in Ill. Hort.* 1871, t. 54.

**SEYCHELLES**, in shaded forests above 1000 feet in elevation, common, *Kirk!* *Horne!* Endemic. *Latanier Haubbaum.*

### 3. **VERSCHAFFELTIA**, *Wendl.*

**Monoicous.** Flowers in 3-flowered clusters, one female between and below two males, spirally arranged on the short branches of a doubly-branched slightly amplexicaul slender drooping spadix with a glabrous compressed peduncle. Spathes 3. Perianth very minute, not seen in the flowering stage. Staminodes forming a ring with 6 short 2-lobed teeth. Fruit globular; scar of the stigma subbasal; mesocarp spongy; endocarp thick, woody, brittle, with vertical ridges reaching from base to apex. Seed ascending, globular, umbilicate at the base, marked with ridges corresponding to the grooves of the endocarp; raphe branching from the hilum and anastomosing freely over the surface; albumen deeply ruminant; embryo subbasal. **DISTRIB.** The only species.

1. **V. splendida**, *Wendl. in Ill. Hort.* xii. *Misc.* 5. Palm 80 feet high, with many aerial roots and a stem 6–12 in. in diameter, which, like the leaf-sheaths and petiole, is very spiny when young. Leaf 5–8 feet long; petiole  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 foot long, pale green, semiterete, grooved down