

tions and horticulture. It frequently passes as *regia*, despite the different bole and habit, striking crown, very different staminate flowers and oblong fruits and broader stiffer pinnæ. Seeds purchased of a standard seedsman in printed packets labelled *regia* are *oleracea*. The species is so well marked in its fruit and seed that little more than the outline in Fig. 200 is needed for identification, whereas in the remaining species the contrasts can be presented convincingly only in photographs.

† *R. oleracea* var. *excelsior*, var. nov. Fig. 204.

Altior: folia comæ inferiora prominenter ascendencia.

Tree very tall; crown composed of closely placed ascending scarcely



FIG. 212. THREE YOUNG TREES of *Roystonea Jenmanii*. Botanic Garden, Georgetown, British Guiana. Page 378.

curved leaves, so that its base is neither flat or drooping but has a tapering or cuneate-upward look.

Georgetown, British Guiana, in the Botanic Garden and somewhat planted elsewhere; nativity unknown. Perhaps it is only a stature form of *R. oleracea*; technical botanical characters appear not to separate it, although petals of the staminate flowers are smaller than in most cases of *oleracea*.

This general crown shape (of var. *excelsior*) appears in Jacquin's picture of *Areca oleracea*, Fig. 194. One does not care to found a species or variety on that picture, however, not knowing whether the tree may have been cropped for thatching, nor indeed whether the picture is accurate; accompanying pictures of coconut and *Acrocomia* (*Cocos aculeatus*) in Jacquin only crudely represent those trees, with crowns very unlike the species themselves. Moreover, it would be inexcusable in taxonomy to elevate to specific rank what is perhaps an aberrant form and to make the prevailing kind a variety of it.

The var. *excelsior* was early labelled *Oreodoxa regia* var. *Jenmanii* in the Botanic Garden at Georgetown but the name has not been published and the palm is quite unlike *Roystonea Jenmanii*. The tree is well represented in Plate XV, a general view, in the Agricultural Journal of British Guiana, i, 1928, in an article by A. A. Abraham on "Palm Features of the Botanic Gardens."

2. **Roystonea regia**, Cook, in Science, ser. II, xii, 479 (1900), in note; Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, xxviii, 554 (1901). CUBA ROYAL PALM. Figs. 199, 200 bc, 202 right, 203a, 205, 206, 207 ab, 208, 209, 226.
- Oreodoxa regia*, HBK. Nov. Gen. et Spec. i, 305, and 244 folio ed. (1815); Martius, Hist. Nat. Palm. iii, 168, t. 156 ff. (1837).
- Roystonea floridana*, Cook, in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, xxviii, 554 (1901).
- Euterpe ventricosa*, C. H. Wright, in Kew Bull. 1906, 203.
- Euterpe acuminata*, Waby, in Journ. Bd. Agric. Brit. Guiana, xii, 54 (1919), not (Willd.) Wendl.

Polymorphous species: rather slender tree in forests or thick groves with increased diameter near the middle and gradual taper either way or toward the summit when standing above other vegetation, but stocky when standing alone and with a rather uniform central bulge and usually an enlarged base, sometimes the irregularity taking the form of a constriction some feet above the ground and giving an hourglass appearance, 7-25 m. or more tall, either erect or somewhat out of perpendicular, the trunk often crooked, seldom column-like: leaf-blades extending in all directions, the lower ones on well-developed trees gracefully downward-curved or hanging making an orb-like crown that covers the crownshaft and flower-clusters: leaves usually