

scars of fruit or of pistillate flowers. Fruits measure 4-4.2 cm. long, 2.4-2.8 cm. in diameter with an apparently rather closely sheathing prominently crenulate perianth 1.4 cm. high. Seeds are 2 cm. long, 1.5-1.6 mm. in diameter, with homogeneous endosperm.

Beccari's conclusion as to the identity of these specimens seems reasonable. Certainly they appear to represent a distinct species notably in the small blunt-based fruit, and in the brown-punctate lower surface of the pinnæ. Unfortunately, my notes contain no description of the anthers. Certain other questions have not yet been resolved so that disposition of the species still remains problematical. *Veitchia simulans* from Taveuni is certainly closely related to the material discussed above.

† 17. *Veitchia filifera*, (Wendl.) trans. nov.

Ptychosperma filiferum, Wendl. in Bonplandia, x, 195 (1862)
and in Seem. Fl. Vitiensis, 273 (1868).

Drymophlæus filiferus, (Wendl.) Scheff. in Ann. Jard. Bot.
Buitenzorg, i, 158 (1876).

Vitiphænix filifera, (Wendl.) Becc. in Ann. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, ii, 91, 126 (1885); Burret, in Fedde Repert. xxiv, 283 (1928).

Stems ca. 10 m. high, 13 cm. in diameter, smooth: leaf 3-4 m. long; pinnæ elongate-lanceolate, coriaceous, stiff, sharply acuminate at the apex where obliquely toothed with the upper side produced beyond the lower, sigmoid and narrowed at the base, slightly arched, glabrous, glossy and dark green above, somewhat gray pruinose and with lanceolate brown chaffy scales 10-15 mm. long on the midnerve at the base below, midnerve and marginal nerves thickened, the secondary nerves 5-7 on each side of the midnerve, the lowermost one or two pinnæ linear-lanceolate, 4-5 cm. long, 5-15 mm. wide, pendulous, often united at their tips and terminating in a lora to 2 m. long, 5 mm. wide, larger segments to 6 dm. long, 5-6 cm. wide, inserted 8 cm. apart.

Fiji Islands: Vanua Levu; near Bikana on the north side (Macuata [Mathuata] coast), *Seemann 661* (B, type (?) destroyed, BM, K isotypes).

The above description is taken from Wendland's original but is emended to delete description of fruit. Isotypes at the British Museum and Kew have only portions of the leaf which agrees with Wendland's account. Burret has discussed the Seemann collection formerly at Berlin which consisted of a leaf-section and fruit (Fedde Repert. xxiv, 283-284, 1928). According to him, fruits of two species were associated with the collection. Some, with the leaf, were those described by Wendland and appeared to be identical with fruit of *Seemann 662*, the type of *Veitchia vitiensis*. Others, collected by Seemann at Bikana without number were pyriform in shape

and measured 18 mm. in length, 8 mm. in diameter with a perianth 7 mm. high.

Until typotypic material can be obtained, the question of the identity of fruit and the exact circumscription and relationship of the species within the genus cannot be settled definitely. From conclusions stated in the discussion of *V. vitiensis* (page 515) it seems certain that the smaller fruits described by Wendland represented that species and that the larger fruits belonged with *V. filifera*. Seemann's notes provided in Flora Vitiensis, and the leaf-portion observed, make clear the relationship between *V. filifera* and the more recently described *V. pedionoma* and *V. sessilifolia*. It is unfortunate that the oldest species of this complex is incompletely known and that it cannot be contrasted reliably with the latter two.

† 18. **Veitchia Pickeringii**, (Wendl.) trans. nov. Fig. 150E.

Ptychosperma Pickeringii, Wendl. in Bonplandia, x, 194 (1862)
[Pickeringii] and in Seem. Fl. Vitiensis, 273 (1868).

Vitiphœnix Pickeringii, (Wendl.) Burret, in Fedde Repert.
xxiv, 284 (1928).

Trunk 5-10 m. high, 8-10 cm. in diameter: leaves 4-5 m. long, the sheath 50 cm. long, rather densely lepidote-floccose, the lepidotes with persistent brown center, subsistent red-brown fimbriate margin and soft, pale, spreading or twisted deciduous hairs; petiole ca. 50 cm. long, densely appressed pale lepidote becoming brown-punctate above and below; pinnæ ca. 40 on each side of the rachis, this brown-punctate below, persistently and minutely red-brown fimbriate-lepidote above, the lower pinnæ inserted ca. 20 cm. apart, the median pinnæ inserted 3.5-4.5 cm. apart, 35-50 cm. long, 3.5-7 cm. wide, narrowed at the base, broadest at the middle, gradually narrowed to an oblique toothed apex ca. 2.5 cm. wide, 4.5 cm. along the margin, glabrous on both surfaces except for the brown-punctate marginal nerves, scattered minute red-brown fimbriate scales near the base and a line of elongate twisted brown basifixed scales on the midrib below, upper pinnæ 1.5-3.5 cm. apart, 17-35 cm. long, 1.5-3 cm. wide, subtruncate, the terminal united in a cuneate segment 22 cm. long, 4.7-5.7 cm. wide or cleft and the segments 9-10 cm. long, 10-15 mm. wide: panicle much-ramified, glabrous, at least the major axis compressed and angled, lower branches to 40 cm. long, twice-branched, the ultimate rachillæ 5-16 cm. long, with 9-18 flowering nodes in a loose spiral or subdistichous; staminate flowers greenish-white, 7-8 mm. long, the sepals 1.5 mm. high, spreading when dry, erect when moistened, petals 7-8 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, stamens 20-28, the white filaments 3-4 mm. long, as long as the basally sagittate apically acutely bifid yellow anthers; pistillate buds 4 mm. high, subtended by narrow inconspicuous bracteoles 0.5 mm. wide or less: fruit not known.

Fiji Islands: Ovalau; without definite locality *Pickering s.n.* (B, fide Burret, now destroyed, GH, lectotype); hills east of Lovoni Valley, 100-300 m. alt., May 8-11, 1953, A. C. Smith 7276 (BH, US).