

(BH) and February 25, 1955, 6087 bis (BH, US). United States Florida; Montgomery Palmetum, Coconut Grove, March, 1957. Moore 7448 (BH).

Seed from the type of *Veitchia sessilifolia* was forwarded to the late Colonel Robert Montgomery in Coconut Grove, Florida, by the collector in 1934. Some of it was shared with the Atkins Garden in Soledad, Cuba, where a tree flowering at a height of 2 meters was observed in 1952 and again in 1955. Another tree at the Montgomery Palmetum has not yet commenced to flower.

It is instructive to compare trees in cultivation with the type specimens. The progeny do not differ in essential qualities of habit, general proportions of foliage and panicle, indument, flowers, or fruit, but notable differences can be observed in size of leaves, toothings of the leaf apex and in panicles. The type is not complete but median pinnæ are about 50 cm. long, 5 cm. wide. Pinnæ from a comparable region in cultivated trees are slightly more than 80 cm. long, 5.5 cm. wide, and distinctly acute. Lower pinnæ are separated by 11-23 cm. on the stout rachis; those of the type are inserted 10-11 cm. apart. Burret applied the epithet *sessilifolia* because of the extremely short petiole but in cultivated plants this may be as much as 10 cm. long. The panicle also appears to be much more robust in cultivation with ultimate rachillæ 7.5-15 cm. long with 10-17 flowering nodes as opposed to rachillæ 5-9 cm. long with 7-11 flowering nodes in the type.

Emphasis has been placed on the size of parts in separating species of this complex heretofore. On that basis, the specimen collected by Degener and Ordonez would merit distinction because of the long slender petiole to 26 cm. long or more, the elongate peduncle 24-26 cm. long. I do not consider these adequate specific differences in view of the pronounced similarity in indument, flowers, and particularly in fruit. The broad rather than nearly acute tips of the pinnæ are strikingly like those of *Veitchia vitiensis* and *V. Smithii*. It is significant that a sterile tree grown at the Montgomery collection from seed of the type is similarly marked by broad apices of the pinnæ. The determining factor is unknown but it is obvious that the difference cannot be relied on for distinction within the species.

† 12. *Veitchia pedionoma*, (A. C. Smith) trans. nov. Figs. 150C, 152.

Vitiphœnix pedionoma, A. C. Smith, in Journ. Arnold Arb. xxxi, 145 (1950).

Stems to 10 m. high, 20 cm. in diameter: leaves ca. 4 m. long, the sheath elongate, petiole and rachis at first pale lepidote, then merely

brown-punctate, the petiole 40-60 cm. long, rachis 2 cm. wide at base, nearly straight for about two-thirds its length, then strongly arcuate-recurved; pinnæ ca. 50 on each side of the rachis, crowded toward the apex, tapered from the middle to a narrow base and an obliquely toothed apex (?) soon bifid or variously frayed, the lower 6-10 cm. apart and more or less reflexed, 65-75 cm. long, 4-5.5 cm. wide at the middle, the median ca. 3 cm. apart but similar, the subapical 3-4 cm. apart, shorter



152. *VEITCHIA PEDIONOMA*. Native assistant holding entire leaf from the type. Photograph by A. C. Smith.

and narrower, the apical ca. 20 cm. long, ca. 3.5 cm. wide, the midnerve sparsely vestite with grayish twisted basifixed scales near the base below, the marginal nerves brown-punctate, surface otherwise glabrous: panicles several, short-pedunculate, much-ramified, glabrous, ca. 60 cm. long and broad, the main axis and branches compressed and angled, the lower branches twice-branched, the median and upper once-branched to simple, the nearly straight ultimate rachillæ 10-15 cm. long with 25-30 flowering nodes in a loose spiral basally, becoming more or less distichous apically; staminate flowers 7-8 mm. long, the sepals 1.5-2 mm. high, 2.5-3.5 mm. wide, entire at anthesis, petals 6.5-7 mm. long, 2.5-3 mm. wide, stamens 30-35, the filaments about half as long as the anthers, these 4 mm. long, acutely bifid at the apex, deeply sagittate at the base; pistillate flowers 3-3.5 mm. in diameter in bud, subtended by conspicuous bracteoles 1-1.5 mm. high: fruit (not completely mature) 13 mm. high, 6 mm. in diameter, ellipsoid, obliquely and shortly rostrate, tapered to the base, the perianth 4-5 mm. high, 5-6 mm. in diameter, rather closely sheathing the base of the fruit, the margins scarcely crenulate, narrowly brown-membranous, the petals with a prominent triangular apex; exocarp adherent to short thickened fibers 0.3-0.5 mm. long appearing pebbled when dry, the incompletely formed seed rounded at base and apex, endosperm homogeneous.

Fiji Islands: Vanua Levu; Mathuata; Seanggangga Plateau, in drainage of Korovuli River, vicinity of Natua, alt. 100-200 m., November 25, 1947, *A. C. Smith 6635* (A, type, US, isotype).

Veitchia pedionoma is known only from the type. Like its congeners it is known by the vernacular "Niuniu." Habit is similar to that of *V. filifera* and *V. sessilifolia*. Although the pinnæ are badly frayed at the tips, the apices appear to be obliquely truncate and toothed. The species is distinguished by its combination of elongate petiole, glabrous panicle, relatively few stamens, and small fruit which, though not completely mature, has probably reached very nearly the maximum size.

SPECIES INCOMPLETELY KNOWN

13. *Veitchia Hookeriana*, Becc. in *Webbia*, v, 77 (1921). Figs. 153, 154.

Habit and foliage unknown: branch of a panicle 32 cm. long, 4.5 cm. broad at base, glabrous but minutely brown-punctulate toward ends of rachillæ, twice-branched, the rachillæ 4-11 cm. long, flattened, angled and stiff, nearly straight or becoming flexuous toward the tip, bearing triads of 2 ♂ and a central ♀ flower at the lowermost 1-2 nodes, with paired or solitary ♂ flowers above; staminate flowers (incompletely developed?) 9 mm. long, the somewhat asymmetric petals ca. 8 mm. long, sepals 4-6 mm. long, stamens numerous with linear anthers sagittate at