

WOODSONIA, A NEW GENUS

† WOODSONIA, gen. nov.

Geonomoidea, sed flores vix immersi, antheræ loculi non discreti: monœcii: folia pinnata, elongata: spadix simplex, erecta, 30–45 cm. longa, compactis floribus, pedunculus æqualiter vel plus longus; spatha major una, longa, vagina amplexicaulis, lamina longa angustaque ad apicem; flores ascendentæ at aliquid imbricati, leviter immersi; flores staminati 6–7 mm. longi, curvi, acuti, striati, petala imbricata, calyx brevis et cupuliformis 3 lobis acutis, 6 stamna, filamenta non connata, antheræ linearis-versatiles, locella non separata, pistillodium columnare, trifidum; flores pistillati 3–4 mm. longi, pæne obtusi, sepala et petala lata et imbricata, striata, ovarium oblatum apice conicale, stylus nullus.

Geonomoid pinnate-leaved monœcious palm with chaff-like flowers in long narrow simple spadix like that of the grass *Ammophila*, the pistillate beneath or more or less between 2 pointed striate staminates, all of them only lightly immersed on the rachis; stamine flowers 6–7 mm. long in full bud, with short 3-pointed calyx cupulate at base, 3 long narrow pointed slightly imbricate petals free and hardly united at base, somewhat exceeded in anthesis by 6 long linear versatile conjoined anthers on separate filaments only moderately widened toward base, pistillode columnar with 3 pointed stigmas; pistillate flowers much shorter, envelopes imbricate and about equal in both series, ovary about 1.5 mm. long, somewhat oblate and narrowed into a conical part, style absent; albumen apparently ruminant.

† *Woodsonia Scheryi*, spec. nov. Fig. 139.

Erecta, 2–3 m. alta, inermis: lamina 1 m. vel plus longa; pinnæ 28–40, longo-lineares, acuminatæ, alternæ vel suboppositæ, 35–45 cm. longæ, 3–5 cm. latæ, pluribus nervis, costa media non valida; petiolus valde angulatus, plus vel minus quadrangulatus, sulcatus basi.

Erect, 2–3 m. tall: leaf-blade 1 m. or more long and 75 cm. broad with 14–20 long-linear pinnæ either side of rachis; pinnæ 35–45 cm. long, 3–5 cm. broad, tapering to long thin point, glabrous or perhaps minutely puberulent underneath, somewhat glossy, subopposite and alternate and sometimes missing, attached 5–10 cm. apart, midrib not very prominent and several side ribs nearly as strong and 5 mm. more or less apart; petiole 60–70 cm. long, expanded at base, narrowly grooved on upper face at lower end but becoming strongly angular and more or less four-sided: spadix 30–45 cm. long, 10–14 cm. thick, tapering to top, terminating a slender peduncle of equal or greater length, the main spathe a single tight sheath produced into a narrow blade that equals the inflorescence; flowers compactly placed, white, becoming stramineous, the buds at anthesis having an upright or ascending direction and loosely imbricating; stamine buds at anthesis period 6–7 mm. long when dry, curved, prominently pointed; pistillate buds at same period 3–4 mm. long and hardly pointed.

Vicinity of San Bartolomé, peninsula de Burica, Province Chiriquí, Panama, 0–50 m. altitude, R. E. Woodson, Jr. & R. W. Schery 894, collected July 28–August 1, 1940. Further studies of this palm are required.