

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 ascendentes at aliquid imbricati, leviter immersi; flores staminati 6-7 mm. longi, curvi, acuti, striati, petala imbricata, calyx brevis et cupuliformis 3 lobis acutis, 6 stamina, filamenta non connata, antheræ lineari-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 conicali, 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; staminate 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; staminate 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 Chiriqui, 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.