

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.

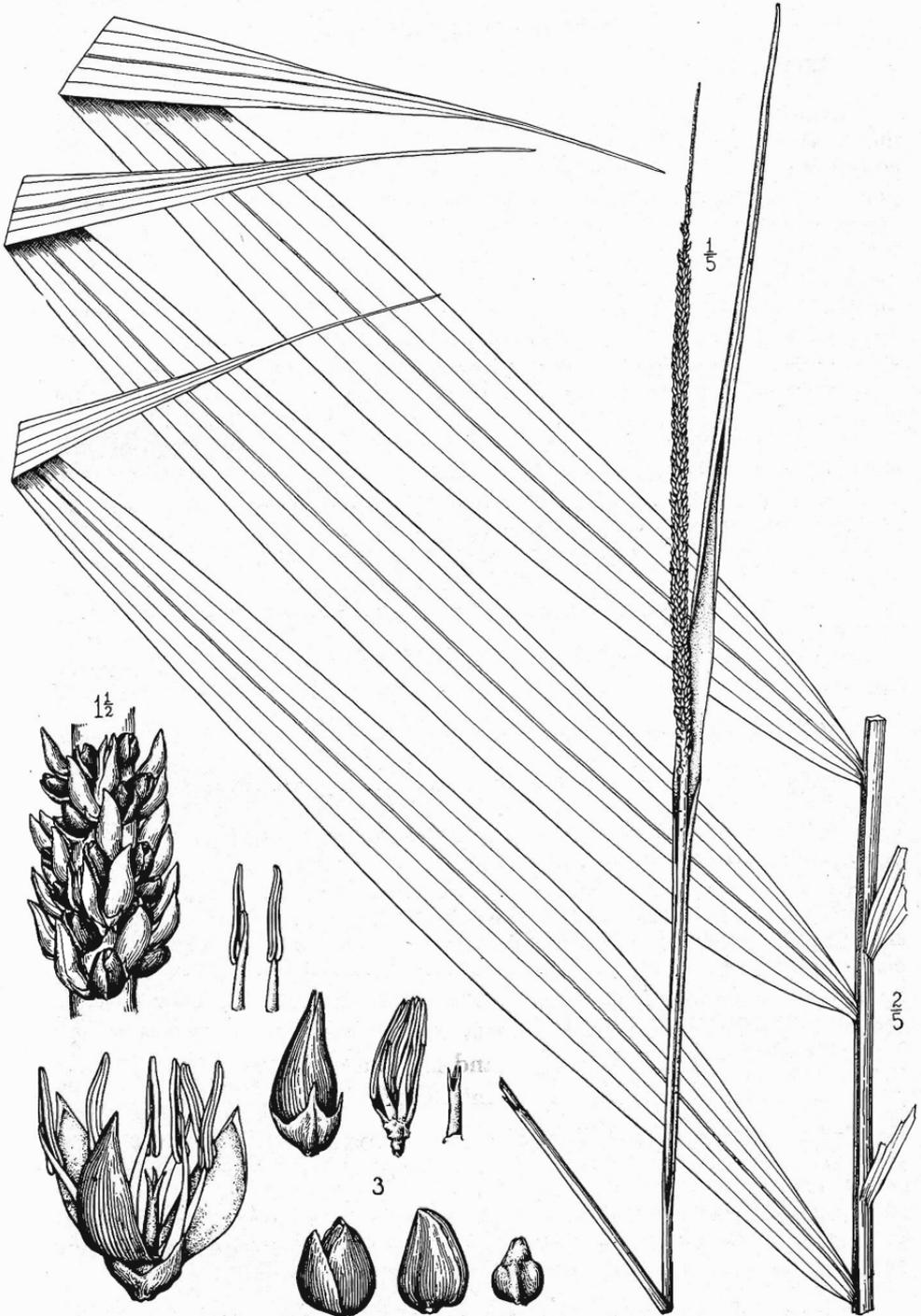
Geonomoid pinnate-leaved monœcious palm with chaff-like flowers in long narrow simple spadix like that of the grass *Ammophila*, the pistillate beneath or more or less between 2 pointed striate staminates, all of them only lightly immersed on the rachis; staminate flowers 6-7 mm. long in full bud, with 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.



139. LEAF, GRASS-LIKE SPADIX, FLORAL DETAILS of *Woodsonia Scheryi*. Details show part of rachilla with both sexes of flowers, not sunken, staminate flower and its parts, and at bottom in three items the pistillate flower and pistil.

This palm, *Woodsonia Scheryi*, reminds one at first sight of *Taenianthera*, particularly of *T. acaulis*, Burret (*Geonoma acaulis*, Martius) but is separated at once by the very different anthers and the flowers superficial. It has the look in flowers of some of the *Cocos* segregates but is distinguished at a glance by the simple unbranched spadix and the lack of durable double cymbas or boat-like spathes, as well as in stature, habit and lack of woody structure.

TERMS

In the continuing study of palms it has been necessary to invent new terms for some of the parts and structures for purposes of clearer diagnosis. These terms are to be published elsewhere but the consultant will be aided if they are entered here, along with some of the older ones. The whole subject of terminology in palms is in need of careful overhauling, but prerequisite to this reformation are contemporaneous studies in the comparative morphology of the structures and organs.

Coma (Latin *coma*, head of hair). The leafy head or crown of a palm tree.

Costapalmate. Structure of a palmate leaf in which the petiole continues nearly or quite through the blade, as in many species of *Sabal* and in some of the *Livistonas*.

Crownshaft (*culmen superius*). The apparent extension of the trunk or main caudex above the spadices and on the top of which rests the head of leaves, well marked in *Roystonea* and *Euterpe*. This shaft is not a woody caudex, however, but is composed of long sheathing leaf-bases and the inclosed long terminal bud.

Cymba (Latin *cymba*, boat). A woody durable spathe or spathe-valve, that at first incloses the inflorescence or spadix and later persists as a covering organ. Cymbas are particularly developed in the *Cocoinæ*, as in *Cocos*, *Arecastrum*, *Syagrus*, *Bactris*, *Acrocomia*, *Attalea*, *Scheelea*, and in *Roystonea*. Usually the cymbas are two to each inflorescence or spadix, one of which falls before full anthesis and is often overlooked, and the secondary larger one that persists even until the fruit is ripe.

Nodifrond (*nodifrons*). Leafy bracts or "spathelets" at the nodes of an elongated inflorescence or spadix, as in *Sabal*, and in other genera not provided with cymbas.

Palman. Undivided or "solid" part of a palmate palm leaf, below the segments.

Rachilla. Small rachis; applied to the ultimate twigs or axes of a branched spadix, on which the flowers and fruits are borne.