

A New Species of *Chamaedorea* from Colombia

RODRIGO BERNAL

GLORIA GALEANO

Instituto de Ciencias Naturales

Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Apartado 7495

Bogotá, Colombia

rbernalg@unal.edu.co,

gagaleanog@unal.edu.co

AND

DONALD R. HODEL

University of California

Cooperative Extension

4800 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.

Los Angeles, California 90022

USA

drhodel@ucdavis.edu

An undescribed species of *Chamaedorea* has been found during the preparation of the palm treatment for the Flora of Colombia.

Chamaedorea ricardo R. Bernal, Galeano & Hodel **sp. nov.**, *C. angustisectae* Burret similis sed foliis minoribus, pinnis paucioribus, rachillis masculinis brevioribus, floribus masculis flavis, calycibus masculis leviter lobatis, fructibus majoribus differt. Typus: Colombia. Antioquia: Municipio de San Carlos, corregimiento Alto Samaná, vereda Miraflores, finca El Desespero, 6 h SW from Alto Samaná, 6°05' N, 74°52' W, 880–920 m, 25 Oct 1989, *Callejas et al.* 8539 (Holotypus HUA; isotypus COL). Fig. 1.

Solitary understory palm 2.2–8 m tall. Stem ca. 3 cm in diameter, green. Leaves 6–10; sheath 12–33 cm long; petiole 9–65 cm long; rachis 34.5–ca. 84 cm long; pinnae 6–19 per side, regularly arranged and spreading in one plane, linear, falcate at the apex, long-acuminate, thin, membranous, with a lateral vein on either side of the midrib, these 1–4 mm from the margin, both the midrib and the lateral veins raised and prominent above and below; a secondary vein between the midrib and lateral vein, slightly prominent on both sides;

proximal pinnae 19–40 × 1.5–2.4 cm; middle pinnae 24.5–50 × 2.4–3.1 cm; apical pinnae wider than the remaining ones, 27–40 × 5–11.2 cm. Inflorescences 3–4 per plant, infrafoliar. Staminate inflorescence with peduncle 12–13.5 cm long, 4–5 mm wide at apex, 8 mm wide at base; prophyll 2–2.2 cm long, ca. 6 mm wide; peduncular bracts 5, distal-most exceeding peduncle for 2 cm and concealing rudimentary 6th one, 2.2–9 cm long, membranous, light brownish, striate-nerved; rachis 8–9 cm long, minute and sparsely tuberculate; rachillae 15–17, slightly spreading, longitudinally ridged, the proximal one to 13.5 cm long, the distal one to 9.5 cm, ca. 1 mm diameter at the middle, the proximal rachilla simple or furcate. Staminate flowers 2–5 mm distant proximally, 1–3 mm distant distally, leaving slightly raised rounded-elliptic scars 0.5–0.75 mm long, oblong in bud, 2.8 × 2 mm, at anthesis 2.5 × 2.5–3 mm, yellow; calyx cupular, 1–1.5 × 2.5 mm, ± thin and transparent, sepals connate in basal 3/4–4/5, broadly rounded apically; petals 2.5 × 1.5–1.7 mm, elliptic to oblong, valvate, free

nearly to base and there briefly imbricate and connate, acute and incurved apically, nerveless, minutely glandular-punctate; stamens 6, equaling petals, 2.5 mm high, filaments 1–2 mm long, anthers 0.5–0.8 mm long, dorsifixed near base; pistillode 2–2.5 mm high, columnar, sharply longitudinally ridged, truncate, trifid, and slightly flared in apical 0.5 mm, lobes erect. Pistillate

inflorescence unknown. Infructescence with green axes and orange immature fruits, the axes turning orange in ripe fruit; peduncle 42–48 cm long, 6–7 mm wide at apex, 3 cm wide at base, light yellow and sparsely black punctate when dry, with 5–7 bract scars including prophyll; rachis 6.5–10.5 cm long; rachillae 7–13, the proximal ones to 25 cm long, the distal ones to 8 (–18) cm long, 2–3 mm

in diameter near the middle, \pm curved-ascending with prominent minute tubercles like those of the rachis. Fruits 1–3 mm distant, strongly falcate, 1.8–2.5(–2.8) cm long, (0.6–)0.8–0.9 cm in diameter, black at maturity; seeds strongly falcate, 1.7–2.3 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm in diameter. Sepals and petals thickened and persistent in fruit; calyx 1–1.5 \times 3.5–4 mm, cupular, sepals connate in basal 1/2, truncate to widely rounded apically; petals 2.5–3 \times 3–4 mm, imbricate in basal 1/3, acute apically; stigma lobes distinct, angled, acute.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Known only from a small area in the middle valley of the Magdalena River and the adjacent slopes of the Cordillera Central in Antioquia, northwestern Colombia, in wet tropical forest (IGAC 1977), between 325 and 920 m elevation.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet honors Ricardo Callejas, a leading Colombian botanist, who collected the type specimen.

CONSERVATION STATUS: The collections of *Chamaedorea ricardoi* are from three localities encompassing (extent of occurrence *sensu* IUCN 2001) an area less than 300 km². The region has been severely deforested after the construction in the 1980s of a road linking Bogota and Medellin, the two largest cities in Colombia, resulting in a continuous decline in the quality of potential habitat. When these parameters (IUCN criteria B1abi, ii, iii; see table 6 in Calderón et al. 2002) are taken into account, *C. ricardoi* must be categorized as endangered (IUCN 2001). That there are no national parks or reserves in the area exacerbates its endangered status.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. COLOMBIA. Antioquia: San Luis, Cañón del Río Claro, sector norte, margen izquierda, 325 m, 5°53' N, 74°39' W, 3 May 1984 (fl), *Cogollo 1680* (JAUM, MO); San Luis, carretera de la autopista Medellín-Bogotá al corregimiento El Prodigio, ca. 25 km de la autopista, 500–630 m, 6°06' N, 74°48' W, 23 May 1990 (fr), *Cogollo et al. 4563* (JAUM, MO).

In the most recent key to the subgenera of *Chamaedorea* (Hodel 1992), *C. ricardoi* keys out either to *Moreniopsis* or *Chamaedoropsis* because of its fruits with thickened and persistent petals and solitary staminate flowers with apically free, erect petals. Unfortunately, the available collections lack information about the number of staminate inflorescences per node, a character that separates

both subgenera. However, the most similar species, *Chamaedorea angustisecta* Burret, belongs to subgenus *Moreniopsis*, which leads us to infer an affinity of *C. ricardoi* with this South American subgenus. *Chamaedorea angustisecta*, which grows on the Amazonian slopes of the Andes and adjacent lowlands in Peru, Brazil and Bolivia, up to 700 m elevation, differs from *C. ricardoi* in its larger leaves (rachis 130–155 cm vs. 34.5–84 cm), with more pinnae (30–39 per side vs. 6–19), staminate inflorescence with longer rachillae (11–24 vs. 8–13.5 cm), orange flowers (vs. yellow), deeply lobed calyx (nearly to the base vs. only in apical 5/8–3/4, and smaller fruits (15–18 mm vs. 20–25 (–28) mm). Moreover, the ranges of the two species are separated by more than 1200 km.

The falcate fruits of *Chamaedorea ricardoi* are particularly remarkable because they are uncommon in the genus. Such fruits are known only in *C. angustisecta*, *C. falcifera* from Guatemala, and occasionally (especially when immature) the widespread *C. pinnatifrons*.

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