

*Palma spinosa* Miller

*Acrocomia spinosa* (Miller) H. E. Moore, tr. nov.

*Palma spinosa* Miller, Gard. Dict. ed. 8. 1768.

*Bactris globosa* J. Gaertner, Fruct. 1: 22. 1788.

*Cocos fusiformis* Swartz, Fl. Ind. Occ. 1: 616. 1797.

*Acrocomia fusiformis* (Swartz) Sweet, Hort. Britt. 432. 1827.

Miller's original citation for *Palma spinosa* was as follows:

"3. PALMA (*Spinosa*) frondibus pinnatis, ubique aculeatis, aculeis nigricantibus fructu majore. *Palm-tree with winged leaves, which are every where armed with black spines, and bearing a larger fruit.* Palma tota spinosa major, fructu pruniformi. Sloan. Cat. Jam. 177. *Greater Palm-tree which is all over prickly and a Plum-shaped fruit, commonly called great Macaw-tree.*"

The application of Miller's description becomes clear from Sloane's account in the *Catalogus* (excluding synonymy) and the more elaborate treatment in the *Natural History* 2: 119. Sloane wrote of this palm, in part:

"This Tree [*The great Macaw-Tree*] has a Swelling at the Foot of the Trunc as others of this Kind; 'tis also smaller in the Trunc towards the Bottom than at the Top; it is as thick as one's Body, rises to thirty Foot high, has an Ash colour'd Bark, and is very thick set with sharp, black Prickles, some longer some shorter, set usually in Rings; at the Top comes the Leaves like those of this Kind, only the Pinnae set on each Side of the Middle Rib, are very long, and the whole Leaf set very thick with Prickles. The Fruit is placed much after the Manner of others of this Kind, only 'tis as large and of the shape of a Crab or Wild Apple, under a green Skin it has a thin, sweetish, adstringent Pulp, and under that, a Nut full of a white, sweet, edible Kernel.

" 'Tis Common in most Savanna's of this Island. There grew one below the Church on the High-way Side near the River at Spanish Town; many in *Liguane* Savanna near Half-way Tree, and in several other Places of this Island."

There can be no doubt that this account refers to the only native Jamaican species of *Acrocomia*, heretofore known as *A. fusiformis*. Swartz himself referred to Sloane's account when he described *Cocos fusiformis* as a distinct species, having earlier equated it with *Cocos aculeata* (= *Acrocomia aculeata*) of Martinique in the *Prodromus* 151, 1788. On the basis of this clear identity, Miller's earlier epithet must be taken up.