

# NEW GENERA AND SPECIES OF PALMAE FROM NEW CALEDONIA, II

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## ABSTRACT

A new species, *Actinokentia huerlimannii* H. E. Moore, and a new monotypic genus, *Moratia cerifera* H. E. Moore, are described from collections made in New Caledonia.

Four new genera and a new species of *Chambeyronia* from New Caledonia were described recently (Moore 1978). Further fieldwork in New Caledonia during October and November of 1978 has yielded information that permits the description of a new species of *Actinokentia* and a monotypic genus in the *Clinostigma* alliance of arecoid palms (Moore 1973).

***Actinokentia huerlimannii* H. E. Moore, sp. nov.** (Fig. 1B).

Ab *A. divaricata* differt in petiolo brevi supra canaliculato, bracteis triadum acutis ad acuminatis 5–10 mm longis, bracteola triadis extima bracteolas interiores longitudine plus minusve aequante.

Holotype: *Hürlimann 1712* (BH).

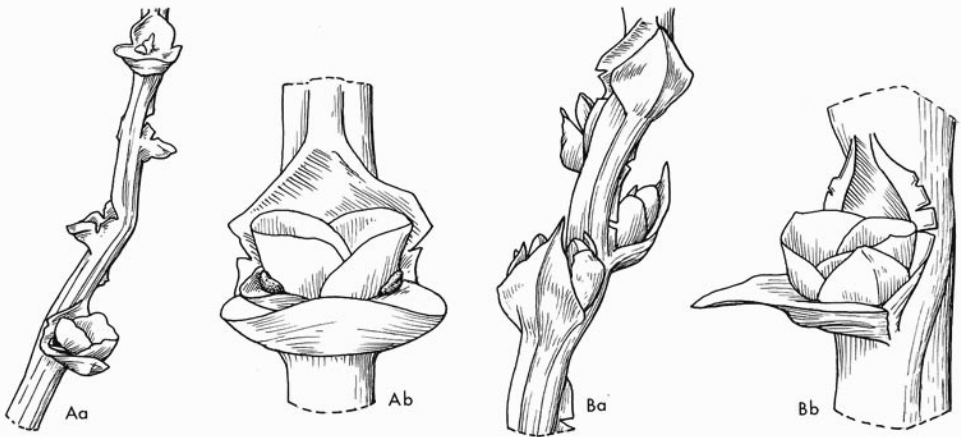
Trunk to 9 m high, weakly annulate, without adventitious roots.

Leaves ca. 5, ascending-spreading; sheath olive-green; petiole short, ca. 18 cm long, reddish, rounded beneath and shallowly channeled above; rachis ca. 94 cm long; pinnae ca. 19 on each side, light glossy green above, duller beneath, with prominent dark ramenta on midrib beneath, basal pinnae ca. 38 cm long, 0.4–1.5 cm wide, median pinnae ca. 56 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, apical pinnae ca. 15 cm long, 0.9 cm wide.

Inflorescence small, ca. 32–41 cm long, minutely brown-lepidote at anthesis, 2 (–3) times branched into rachillae of the third to fourth order ( $ax^{3-4}$ ); peduncle 9–12 cm long; rachis 17–19 cm long; branches ca. 9–11, the lower once- or twice-branched, with peduncular base 4.5–5 cm long, rachis 5.5–7 cm long, ca. 6 branches or rachillae to 22 cm long; bracts subtending branches and rachillae prominent, acute, to 2 cm long, those subtending the triads prominent, acute to acuminate, ascending to erect, 5–10 mm long, exceeding the flowers, outermost bracteole in triad about as long as inner bracteoles.

Staminate buds essentially symmetrical; sepals ca. 4 mm high, ciliate, minutely lepidote with membranous brown scales, keeled and the outermost often gibbous near the tip; petals ca. 4 mm high, scarcely exceeding sepals; stamens 19–23; pistillode elongate, slender, about equalling stamens; pistillate flowers ca. 7 mm long, minutely lepidote with membranous brown scales, surrounded by 2 essentially equal, minutely lepidote, sepal-like bracteoles ca. 4 mm long; sepals 5–6 mm long, rounded or the margin broken into lobes; petals 5–5.5 mm long, broadly imbricate, scarcely exceeding sepals; stigmas prominent, recurved, with a central line of hairs, ca. 3 mm long and about equalling the ovary and style together.

Fruit ellipsoid, ca. 3 cm long, 1.3 cm in diam.; petals 7 mm high in fruit.



1. Bracts and bracteoles of *Actinokentia* inflorescences in semidiagrammatic drawings. **A**, *A. divaricata*. **Aa**, portion of rachilla with triads from which flowers and fruits have fallen,  $\times 2$ ; **Ab**, triad with fruit removed showing bract subtending the triad, sepal-like bracteoles surrounding the fruit, and third bracteole external to a staminate flower at left,  $\times 5$ . **B**, *A. huerlimannii*. **Ba**, portion of rachillae with triads before anthesis,  $\times 2$ ; **Bb**, triad with fruit removed showing bract subtending the triad, sepal-like bracteoles surrounding the fruit, and third bracteole external to a staminate flower at right,  $\times 5$ . **A** from Moore *et al.* 9340 (BH); **B** from Hürlimann 1712 (BH).

Specimens examined: NEW CALEDONIA. Forêt méso-hygrophile de montagne sur serpentine, pente d'une vallée latérale de la haute Ni, 880 m, 25 Jun 1951, Hürlimann 1712 (BH, holotype; Z, isotype); wet forest on slope beside ridge trail on route from Rivière Ngoye at Mine Catherine 7A to Mt. Nékando, ca. 850 m alt., 24 Oct 1978, Moore, Puset, Sevenet, & Veillon 10440 (BH, NOU, Z).

*Actinokentia huerlimannii* honors Dr. H. Hürlimann, now of Basle, Switzerland, who collected this and many other palms during the botanical expedition of the Mission Franco-Suisse in 1950–52. It may be separated from *A. divaricata* (Fig. 1A) as follows:

1. Petiole short, ca. 18 cm long, channeled above; bracts subtending triads in the inflorescence ascending to nearly erect, acute to acuminate, 5–10 mm long, usually exceeding the flowers; outermost bracteole in the triad about as high as the inner bracteoles; sepals of staminate flowers nearly as high as petals; fruit ca. 3 cm long, 1.3 cm in diam. ----- *A. huerlimannii*
1. Petiole elongate, to 85 cm long, nearly terete in cross section except at the base; bracts subtending triads in the inflorescence spreading, rounded, 2–3 mm long, not equalling the flowers; outermost bracteole in the triad half as high as the inner bracteoles or less; sepals of staminate flowers about half as high as the petals at maturity; fruit 2.3–2.5 cm long, 0.8–1 cm in diam. ----- *A. divaricata*

The description of the leaf is taken from Moore *et al.* 10440, as foliar material accompanying the type is incomplete. Only one individual of this apparently rare species was seen on the trail to Nékando in contrast to the relative abundance of *A. divaricata* from 600–900 m altitude in the thalweg descending the west flank of Nékando to the Ngoye River and elsewhere in the southern part of New Caledonia. The state of the population in the Haute Ni is unknown.

#### MORATIA H. E. Moore, *gen. nov.*

Palmae monoeciae solitariae. Folia pinnata vaginis tubularibus et pinnis acutis unicastis. Inflorescentiae infrafoliares prophylo pedunculum omnino vagi-