



Fig. 1. *Licuala bifida* Heatubun & Barfod. a. Habit; b. leaf; c. infructescence; d. detail of infructescence; e. fruit. — Scale bar: a = 20 cm, b = 8 cm, c = 4 cm, d = 1 mm, e = 7 mm (a: from photograph taken by Charlie Heatubun; b–e: Wally 839, K).

except for the habit drawing on Fig. 1, which was based on a colour photograph from the type locality.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES

1. *Licuala bifida* Heatubun & Barfod, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1

Palma solitaria, foliis bifidis et inflorescentia partiali spicata. — Typus: *Wally 839* (holo MAN!; iso BO, K!), Indonesia, West Papua province, Teluk Bintuni regency (previously Manokwari regency), Merdey.

Solitary, small to medium-sized palm. *Stem* to 2 m high, to 3 cm diam., internodes very short. *Leaves* c. 18 in crown; petiole 13–30 cm long, 3–6 mm wide at the base to 3–6 mm across towards the apex, adaxial face flattened at the apex and shallowly channelled at the base, abaxial face rounded, greenish yellow in colour, armed; blade small, 17–20 cm wide, simple-bifid leaves, adaxial light green, abaxial whitish, c. 112 cm long, truncate at apex and 5–10 mm wide, lobe split 30–35 cm from apex to rachis, rachis c. 40 cm long. *Inflorescences* 1 or 2 in a single palm, shorter than leaves, 82–90 cm long, branched to only 2 first-order branches; peduncle 67–75 cm long; prophyll 21–25 by 1.5–2 mm; peduncular bracts lacking; rachis elongate, c. 16 cm long; rachis bract tubular, flattened, 2-keeled, 40–50 by 1 mm, covered with brown and black indument, mouth loosely sheathing, splitting on one side, apex pointed; first-order branches close to or slightly away from mouth of rachis bract (c. 12 cm); rachillae 8–12 cm long, 2–3 mm wide. *Flowers* unknown. *Fruits* globose, 7–10 mm diam., orange when mature; seed globose 5–8 mm diam.; endocarp smooth; endosperm homogeneous.

Distribution — This has been reported from a restricted area in the Merdey valley (now Moskona Utara district of Teluk Bintuni regency), in South-Central Bird's Head Peninsula in Western New Guinea.

Habitat — This palm grows in lowland forest to 500 m asl.

Conservation status — Data deficient but probably under threat due to its restricted distribution.

Vernacular name and uses — Not recorded.

Note — The only New Guinea *Licuala* recorded so far with bifid leaves. The inflorescence structure is reminiscent of *L. graminifolia* from which it differs by normally having two partial inflorescences. Flowering material of this species has not yet been collected.

Etymology — The name refers to the entire, bifid leaves.

Additional specimen studied:

INDONESIA. West Papua: *Heatubun s.n.* (MAN!), Manokwari, Merdey district (now is Moskona Utara district of Teluk Bintuni regency), forest behind Merdey village.

2. *Licuala graminifolia* Heatubun & Barfod, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 2

Palma parva solitaria, foliis subtiliter divisis et inflorescentia non ramosa. Ab *L. bifida*, et ceteris speciebus inflorescentiam spicam praebens, folia in segmentis augustis divisis statim diagnoscenda. — Typus: *Van Royen & Sleumer 7345* (holo L!; iso K!), Indonesia, West Papua province (Vogelkop Peninsula), Kebar Valley, opposite Andjai, path to Hatai, above Aremi village, 800 m, 20 November 1961.