

3,4. Inflorescences of *Chamaedorea nationsiana* showing densely packed fruits.

J. Castillo Mont 869, 871, 873, 1017, 1021B (BH; AGUAT), *1021A* (Holotype BH; Isotype AGUAT).

The specific epithet honors biologist and conservationist James D. Nations of Ciudad Vieja near Antigua, Guatemala, who has contributed greatly to conservation and rural development efforts in that country.

Chamaedorea nationsiana is closest to *C. arenbergiana* with which it has been confused and would key out next to this species in an earlier paper (Hodel 1990). However, the solitary, branched staminate inflorescences with up to ten pendulous rachillae of *C. arenbergiana* distinguish it from *C. nationsiana*. Fisher and Moore (1977), reporting on multiple inflorescences in palms, stated that *C. arenbergiana* had multiple staminate inflorescences. However, this is in error; Wendland's type specimen of *C. arenbergiana* at GOET and his original description clearly show this species to have solitary, branched staminate inflorescences.

Although all the known specimens of *C. nationsiana* are from one locality in Guatemala, this highly localized distribution may be more apparent than real. Nearly all collections labeled as *C. arenbergiana*

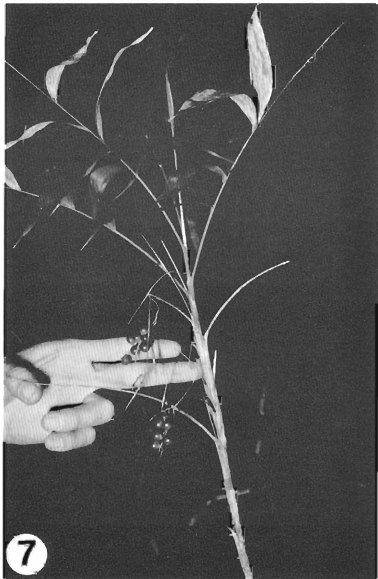
from the Atlantic slope of Guatemala and adjacent Honduras are in fruit. Some of these may actually be *C. nationsiana* since the two species are difficult to distinguish when only fruiting material is at hand.

We distributed seeds of *C. nationsiana* in December, 1989 as *C. arenbergiana* under the numbers *D. R. Hodel & J. J. Castillo Mont 869* and *873*.

Chamaedorea fractiflexa D. R. Hodel & J. J. Castillo Mont **sp. nov.** (Figs. 5–7).



5. Fruiting plant of *Chamaedorea fractiflexa* in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala displaying procumbent stem.



6. Staminate plant of *Chamaedorea fractiflexa* from which we collected the type specimen, D. R. Hodel & J. J. Castillo Mont 912A. 7. Fruiting plant of *Chamaedorea fractiflexa*, D. R. Hodel & J. J. Castillo Mont 912B showing filiform peduncles.

Subgeneris *Chamaedoropsi* Oerst. inflorescentiis masculis solitariis, floribus masculis solitariis petalis patentibus apicaliter. *C. digitatae* Standl. & Steyerem. affinis sed floribus remotis, inflorescentiis masculis rhachidibus valde fractiflexis, peduculis femineis filiformibus pendulis, rachillis fructiferis pendulis differt. Typus: Guatemala, D. R. Hodel & J. J. Castillo Mont 912A (Holotypus BH; Isotypus AGUAT).

Stem solitary, procumbent (Fig. 5) to erect, to 2 m tall, 5–8 mm diam., smooth, green, ringed, internodes 3–7 cm long, often covered with persistent leaf sheaths. Leaves 3–8, spreading, pinnate; sheath to 12 cm long, tubular, tightly clasping, obliquely open apically, green, longitudinally striate-nerve; petiole to 5 cm long,

flat and green adaxially, rounded and pale abaxially; rachis to 20 cm long, angled and green adaxially, rounded abaxially with a pale band extending onto sheath; pinnae 5–8 on each side of rachis, regularly placed, opposite, lanceolate to broadly lanceolate, to 13 × 3.5 cm, sigmoid, long-acuminate apically, contracted basally, a prominent midrib and 2 primary nerves on each side of this, a secondary between each pair of primaries, tertiaries numerous, faint, end pinnae sometimes broader, to 6 cm wide, 4–5-nerve.

Inflorescences interfoliar, slender, few-branched; peduncles to 30 cm long, very slender, 2 mm wide at base and ± flattened, 0.5–1.5 mm diam. at apex and there filiform, green in flower, pendulous and orange apically in fruit; bracts 5–6,

± loosely sheathing, brown in flower and fruit, acute to acuminate, papery-thin, finely longitudinally striate-nerved, prophyll 2 cm long, 2nd bract 4.5 cm long, 3rd and 4th 9 cm long, 5th 7 cm long, often a rudimentary 6th concealed by 5th. Staminate inflorescence with rachis to 3 cm long (Fig. 6), strongly flexuous, green; rachillae 5, these to 7 cm long, each attached at an "elbow" of rachis, green and slightly drooping in flower. Pistillate inflorescence with rachis to 1 cm long, green in flower, orange in fruit; rachillae 3, these to 7 cm long, green in flower, downward-pointing and orange in fruit (Fig. 7).

Staminate flowers ± densely arranged, 1–2 mm apart, oblong in bud, 2–2.5 × 1–1.5 mm; calyx cupular, to 0.75 × 1.5–2 mm, 3-lobed, lobes broadly rounded, 0.5 mm wide, sepals imbricate and/or slightly connate basally; petals valvate, lightly nerved on inside; stamens 1.5 mm long, filaments 0.5–0.75 mm long, anthers oblong, 1 mm long, bilobed; pistillode columnar, 1.5 mm high, finely longitudinally striated. Pistillate flowers 3–4 mm apart, ± globose, 1 × 1.5–1.75 mm; calyx coroniform, 0.75 × 2 mm, deeply 3-lobed, lobes acute, obscurely nerved, sepals connate basally; petals lightly imbricate basally, free apically, acute, obscurely nerved, 1.5 × 1.5–2 mm; pistil ovoid, 1.5 × 1 mm. Fruits black, globose, 8 × 7 mm.

Distribution: GUATEMALA. Quetzaltenango. MEXICO. Chiapas: Dense, wet forest on the Pacific slope, 2,000–2,900 m elevation.

Specimens Examined: GUATEMALA. Quetzaltenango: southwestern slope of Volcan Zunil, D. R. Hodel & J. J. Castillo Mont 905, 905B, 912B, 986 (BH, AGUAT), 912A (Holotype BH; Isotype AGUAT. MEXICO. Chiapas: Motozintla de Mendoza, D. E. Breedlove 41648 (CAS).

The epithet is from the Latin *fractiflexus* meaning zigzag, in reference to the rachis of the staminate inflorescence. *Chamaedorea fractiflexa* is rare and known only from five collections in Guatemala and one in Mexico. It is closest to *C. digitata*, but the straight staminate rachis, thickened and ascending pistillate peduncle, more densely flowered rachillae, and ascending or spreading fruit-bearing rachillae distinguish this latter species.

Acknowledgments

We thank Richard W. Palmer, Pauleen Sullivan, Lynn Muir, Philip Keeler, Louis Hooper, and Inge Hoffman for supporting Hodel's field work in Guatemala. John Dransfield and Natalie Uhl reviewed and offered helpful suggestions on the manuscript.

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