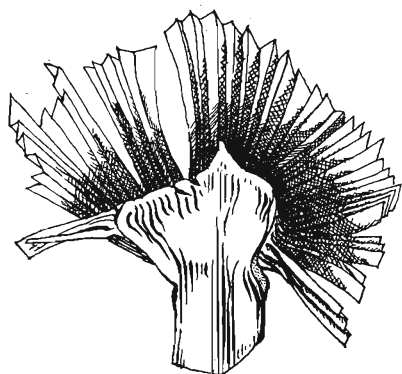


drooping; petiole slender, flat on upper face, convex underneath, margins thin and sharp and entire; hastula an upstanding lip: flower-clusters interfoliar, often equalling or exceeding the leaves, with several branched open clusters from different nodes, the sheaths or spathelets little developed, flowers sessile or variously pedicellate; calyx and corolla cup-like; stamens 9; pistil single and simple: fruit a small body, dark brown or black or purplish at maturity, subglobose, usually less than 1 cm. thick, the flesh thin and soon hard; seed single, ribbed or furrowed to mark internal divisions, albumen strongly ruminant or divided into sections by intrusions from the walls, embryo lateral.

†*Coccothrinax australis*, spec. nov. Figs. 149-152.

Arbor, erecta, ad 15 vel 16 m. alta: folia 1-2 m. longa lataque, glabra, argentea subter; segmenta 3-5 cm. lata in medio vel basi, longo-acuminata, bifida, vulgo non pendentia; hastula curva et fere acuminata, circa 3 cm. lata: inflorescentia brevior quam folia, 5 vel 6 racemis pendentibus 15-20 cm. longis, spathillæ acuminatæ; flores circa 3 mm. longi in pedicello æque longo, pistillum stamina excedens, petala brevia acutaque: fructus globulares, 7-8 mm. crassi, cum maturi nigri vel atro-brunnei, non nitidi; semen 5-6 mm. latum, 4-5 mm. longum, complanatum, costis et depressionibus, albumen divisum vel ruminatum.

Rather stocky *Latanier* to 15 or 16 m. tall, heavily foliaged, trunk usually marked with rings of fallen leaves and some of the spent leaves usually hanging under the coma or head: petiole about 15 mm. broad at apex, obtusely ridged on upper face, rounded underneath; hastula a thick lip standing free of the blade, obtuse in outline but commonly developed to a point, length usually less than breadth, about 3 cm. across at base and 2-3 cm. high; leaf-blade 1-2 m. long, glabrous on both surfaces and prominently silvery underneath, split to about one-half its length into many long-acuminate slenderly bifid segments 3-5 cm. broad at middle or base, filaments none, segments mostly erect or outstanding but some of them more or less over-hanging: flower-clusters mostly not as long as leaves or not projecting beyond them, carrying 5 or 6 hanging clusters that are or become

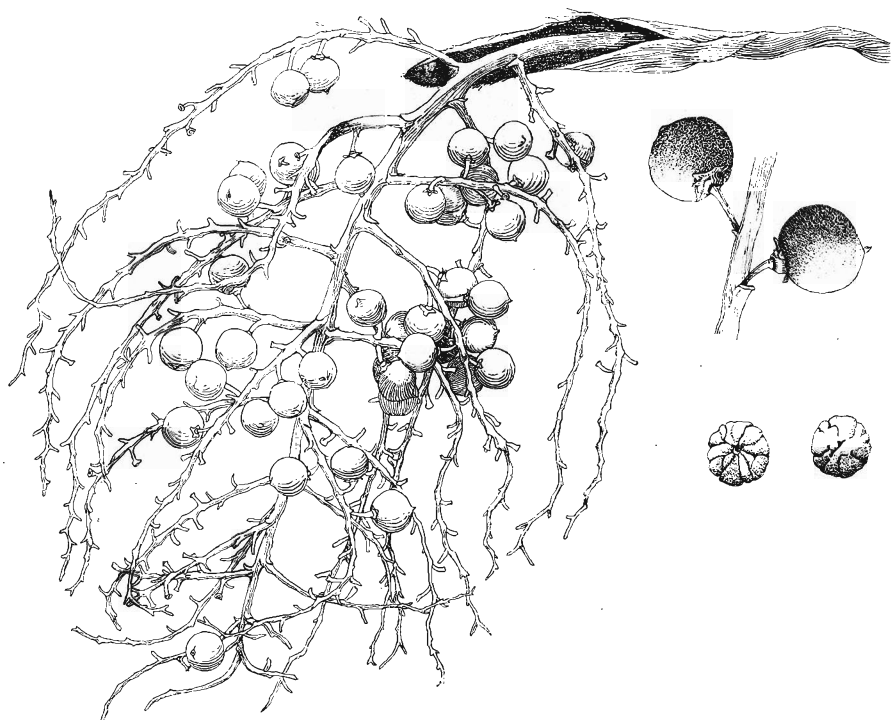


151. HASTULA of *Coccothrinax australis*.
× 1/2.

15-20 cm. long, the free part of the pointed spathelets 3-6 cm. long; flowers scattered, about 3 mm. long on pedicel of equal or greater length, the single pistil with expanded stigma exceeding the spreading stamens and the stamens exceeding the briefly pointed petals: fruit globular, 7-8 mm. thick, with brief point, cupule lacking, green to whitish in color when nearly or quite full grown but becoming dull brownish-black; seed 5-6 mm. broad, width greater than height, marked by ribs and depressions, readily breaking under pressure into parts corresponding to the ruminant divisions.

Trinidad, Tobago, Little Tobago, widespread on coastal hills, banks and cliffs. Trinidad: Quinam Bay, St. Patrick, *Bailey 118* (type); Palo Seco, St. Patrick, *Brittons & Hazen 1166*, *Britton 9749*; Manzanilla on east coast, *N. L. & E. G. Britton 2193*; Biscayne Bay, Monos Island, *Britton & Hazen 1739*. Tobago: point opposite Melville Islands to Charlotteville, *Freeman & Williams 11410* (collected 1925); Roxborough Bay, *J. S. Beard*. Little Tobago: *Bailey, Seifriz*. Goat Islands, Little Tobago, *Swabey 12951*. The species is variable, particularly in the pedicels and rachillæ which may be very slender when they have not borne a full crop of mature fruit. It is the southernmost *Coccothrinax* yet known, whence *australis*, southern.

This interesting Latanier, *Coccothrinax australis*, differs from *C. alta* of Puerto Rico in the much broader leaf-segments that are less acuminate-pointed than in that species, in its less slender petiole and its broad hastula inrolled from the sides and with a large upstanding central point, much larger and more developed spathelets, more slender and longer pedicels, brownish white-marked seeds, and in its more showy and striking foliage.



152. FRUITING PARTS of *Coccothrinax australis*. Spadix with spathe at left; fruits and seeds at right, about natural size.

- long: terminal hooks somewhat diverging from each other, 2-3 cm. long: pinnæ opposite or subopposite, very broad, commonly 4 cm. or more, not long-attenuate.....2. *D. Hartii*
- cc. Prickles on mature spathe close together or contiguous as if overlapping or touching each other, most or all of them with white base.
- d. Terminal hooks very long, 5-6 cm., and flaring backwards, not with swollen base: pinnæ opposite or subopposite, narrow, 2-3 cm. broad, long-acuminate: fruit acute or tapered to apex.3. *D. Brittonii*
- dd. Terminal hooks 3-4 cm. long, pointing straight backwards, with long swollen woody base: pinnæ opposite, broad, 4-6 cm., briefly acuminate: fruit rounded or blunt at apex except for a very brief sudden point.....4. *D. tobagonis*
- bb. Spathe very narrow, fusiform or almost cylindrical, stoutly armed with short bulbose-based stiff spinelets or prickles.—CYLINDRISPATHE.
- c. Arrangement of pinnæ irregularly alternate; width of main pinnæ 2-3 cm. or less, being one-fourth or less of the length of the pinnæ: main stem or cane bearing slender prickles 2 cm. and less long, not broad-based: spines on spathe or most of them slender and hair-like.....5. *D. peraltus*
- cc. Arrangement of pinnæ opposite; width of main pinnæ 4 cm. or more, being about one-half or one-third the length of the pinnæ: main stem or cane bearing short stiff spines with broad base: spines on spathe very short and broad-based, like real little thorns...6. *D. Prestoei*

1. **Desmoncus major**, Crueger ex Grisebach, Fl. Brit. W. Ind. 519 (1864).

Unverified species described originally without fruits and with pinnæ only about 1 cm. broad, remainder of description not sufficient for identification in the field. It was collected at Caroni by Crueger, but has not been recognized there in recent time although search has been made. The species has been accepted heretofore inasmuch as only one *Desmoncus* was recorded on the island; now that we distinguish other species because of better collected materials we are in doubt what was meant by *D. major*. It has never been authentically figured. Burret in 1934 (Fedde, Repert. xxxvi, 205) refers *D. major* to *D. horridus* of Surinam.

As described in Grisebach the pinnæ are in 20 pairs, flattish, partly clustered, the inferior ones 1 m. long and 5 lines (1 cm.) broad, main pinnæ not defined, rachis prickly and covered with blackish deciduous tomentum, rachis subterete below and upper side flattish, prickles scattered, 6 lines or less long, hooks stout in 6 pairs and 1-3 inches long, spathe 1 foot long covered with brown prickles 3-4 lines long.

†2. **Desmoncus Hartii**, spec. nov. Fig. 153.

D. major, Auth.; Bailey, Gent. Herb. vi, 215, fig. 109 (1943), reproduced here as Fig. 153, not Crueger.

Vigorous, magnus, scandens: pinnæ 5 vel 6 paribus, oppositæ vel suboppositæ, latæ, non longo-attenuatæ, 15-20 cm. longæ et 4-6 cm. latæ, nudæ vel 3-5 spinis gracilibus, petiolus spinis longis, unci 5 vel 6 paribus,