

hooks strongly reflexed, rather weak on certain cirrhi and 2 cm. or less long, stout and stiff in other cases and 6-8 cm. long, the cirrhus either bearing spines or bare of them: spathe about 3 dm. long, 5-7 cm. broad at expansion, conspicuously covered with bulbose-based spines 5-15 mm. long; spadix simple, about 2 dm. or more long in the branching part, rachillæ many, slender, 10-18 cm. long, undulate and mostly nude, peduncle densely aciculate; flowers very small, the floral cup with entire or indefinitely pointed angles, fruit brown at dry maturity, oblong, 13-15 mm. long, 8-10 mm. thick, point very short and small, surface usually showing depressions over the 3 micropyles, shell strong; seed oblong, 1 cm. or less long, featureless except for the micropyles, 2 of which are abortive.

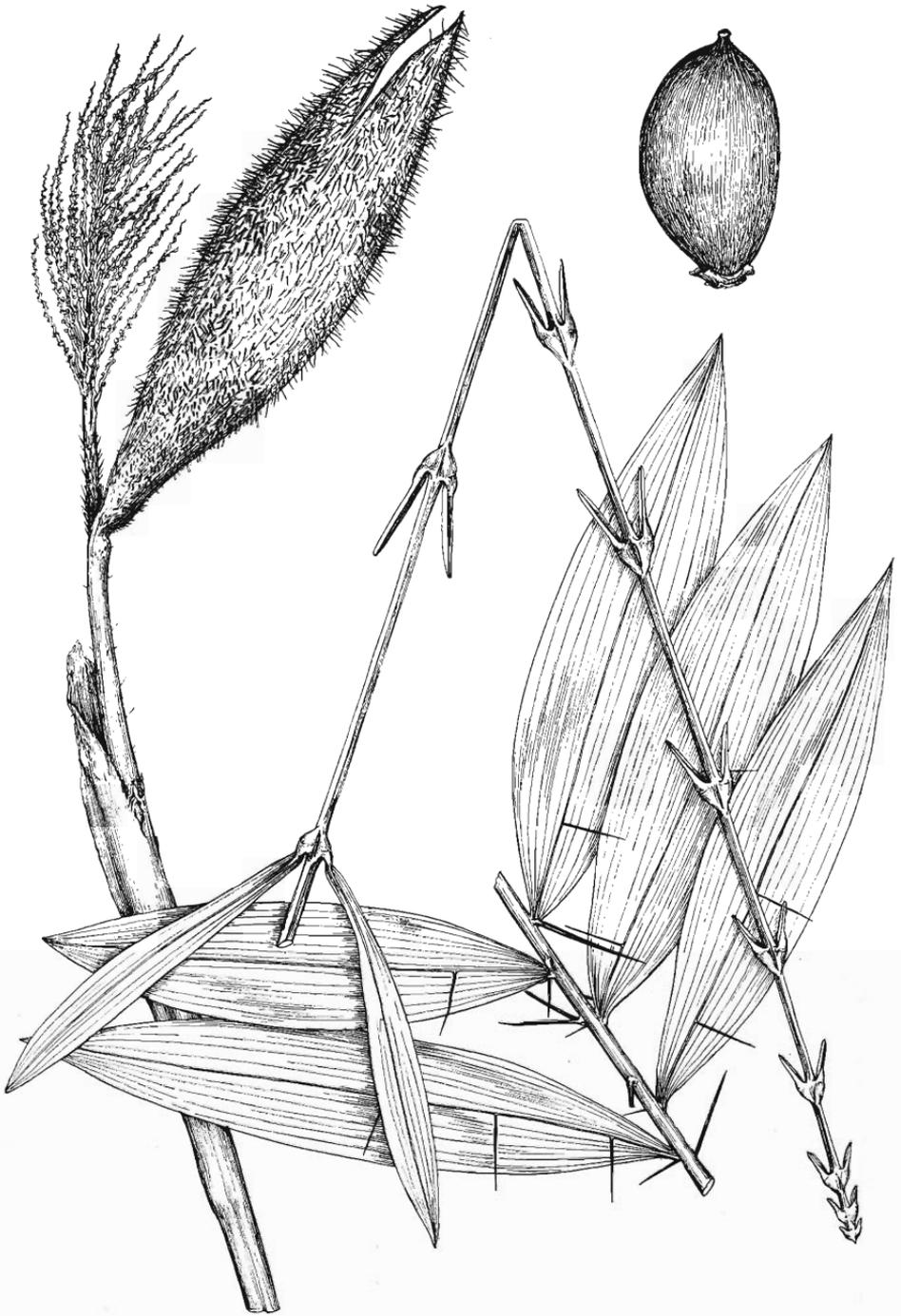
Recognized only about Paramaribo, Surinam (Dutch Guiana), South America.

† *Desmoncus demeraranus*, spec. nov. Fig. 75.

Magnus et validissimus, valde armatus, scandens ad 16 m. altus: folia magna, glabra, petiolus et costa media furfuracea spinis 2-6 cm. longis; pinnæ multæ, sparsæ vel suboppositæ, 2-3 dm. vel plus longæ, 5-7 cm. latæ, acuminatæ, multicostatæ, spinis paucis subter; unci terminales 2-6 cm. longi, validi, reflexi, plani basi crassa lignosaque: spathe circa 3 dm. longa, 4-7 cm. lata, aculeata; spadix pedunculusque 2-3 dm. longus, rachillæ dense floriferæ et undulatæ: fructus rubri, oblongi, 15-17 mm. longi, 10-12 mm. lati, non conspicue acuminati, tenuiter sarcosi extra, endocarpium conchiforme et striatum; semen 12-13 mm. longum, 1 magna micropyla et 2 abortivis.

Very stout palm at first nearly erect to 3-5 m., then long-scandent to 12-16 m. in trees and on bushes: leaves long and heavy, glabrous, petiole and midrib furfuraceous, bearing many brown-black flat spines 2-6 cm. long, leaf-sheaths closely prickly; pinnæ many, scattered or semi-opposite toward the apex, broadly elliptic-lanceolate, 2-3 dm. or more long, 5-7 cm. broad, acuminate, strongly many-ribbed lengthwise, bearing 1 or few spines 3-4 cm. long on midrib underneath; terminal hooks very large and stout on a thin-edged strong rachis, 2-6 cm. long, completely reflexed, flat and centrally ridged, the woody bases much extended and thickened: spathe nearly or quite 3 dm. long, 4-7 cm. broad, profusely covered with divaricate and retrorse prickles 1-2 cm. long; spadix with peduncle 2-3 dm. long in flower, peduncle minutely aciculate, flowering part about 18 cm. long, rachillæ closely flowered and somewhat undulate, flowers 4-5 mm. long at expansion: fruit red, oblong, 15-17 mm. long when dry and 10-12 mm. thick, apical point scarcely evident, surface wrinkled but smooth, exterior sarcose but endocarp shell-like and reticulated toward the 3 pores of which 2 are functionless; seed 12-13 mm. long, albumen uniform and white.

Coastal plain in Province Demerara, British Guiana, South America, abundant on east bank of Demerara River near Craig Village between Georgetown and Atkinson Field, *Barley* 418; a big conspicuous and dominating kamwarri, the local vernacular name of this group of palm vines.



75. *DESMONCUS DEMERARANUS*  $\times \frac{1}{3}$ . Fruit  $\times 2$ . Note the very broad short-acute pinnæ and thick stout hooks.