

- 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).

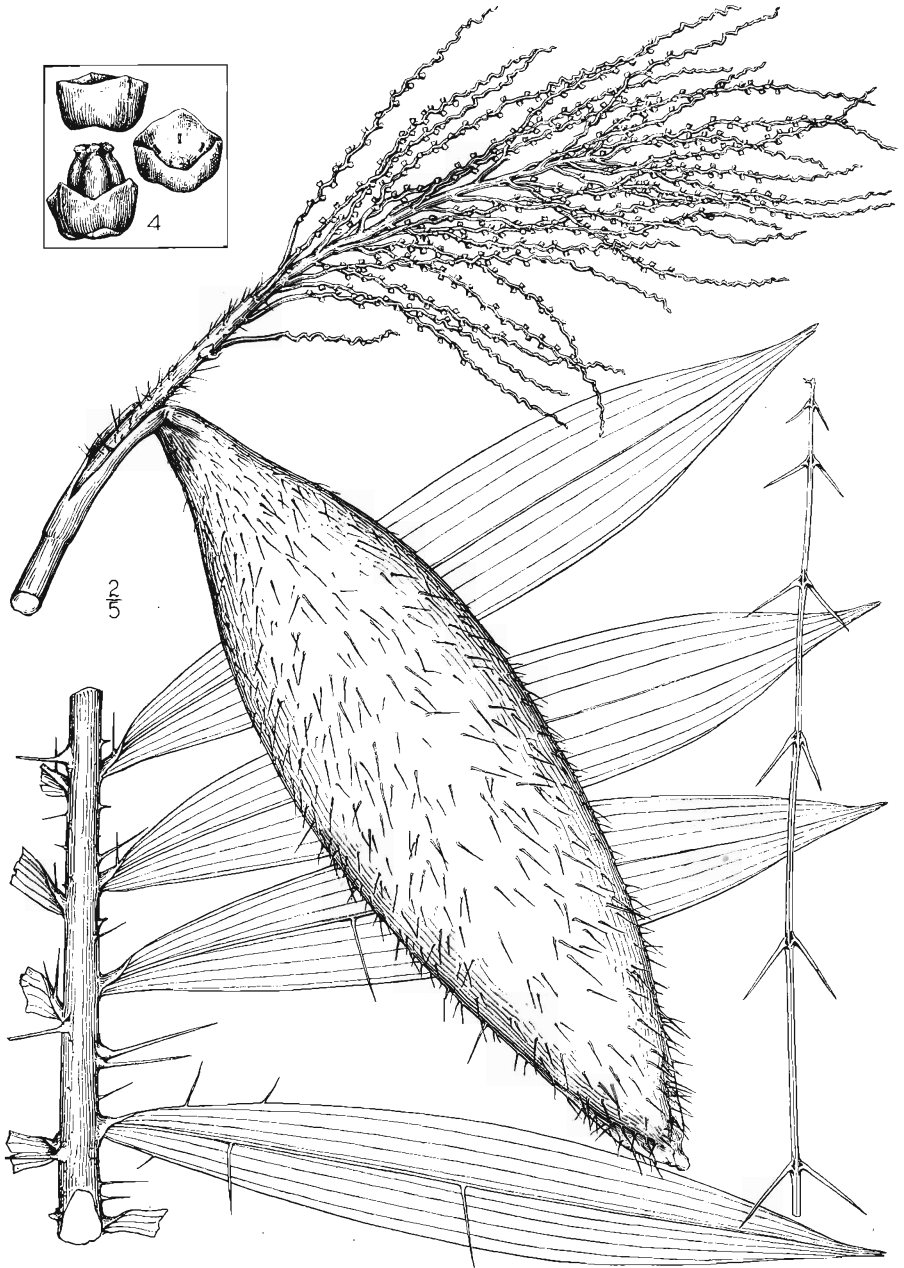
Unverified species described originally without fruits and with pinnæ only about 1 cm. broad, remainder of description not sufficient for identification in the field. It was collected at Caroni by Crueger, but has not been recognized there in recent time although search has been made. The species has 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,



153. DESMONCUS HARTII, one of the plants known as *D. major*; from Gentes Herbarum, vi, fig. 109; leafage, whip at right, broad spathe, spadix, pistillate flowers.

retrorsi et divergentes, 3-4 cm. longi: spatha 20-30 cm. longa, lata plana-que, sparsis aculeis late dispersis 3-7 mm. longis sine crassa basi alba.

Vigorous major climber, glabrous except that the petiole and rachis may be more or less furfuraceous but soon becoming bare: pinnæ opposite or subopposite, broad, 15-20 cm. long and 4-6 cm. broad, narrowed to apex but not attenuate-acuminate, with several or many side-veins, nude or bearing 3-5 spines 2-4 cm. long near base and on rib, petiole and rachis carrying flattened spines 4-6 cm. long and intermediate smaller ones; cirrhus whip bearing 5 or 6 pairs of thick-based retrorse hooks about 3-4 cm. long: spathe or cymba 20-30 cm. long, flat and broad at maturity when pressed, the spines 3-7 mm. long and widely scattered so that they may be 5 mm. apart, the base scarcely thickened or white; flowers well separated, the pistillates 3-5 mm. apart and 2-3 mm. long: fruit ellipsoidal, nearly or quite 2 cm. long, one-half as thick, equally tapered both ways to a brief point, brown.

Trinidad, distribution not made out, probably general; Mayaro, *Bailey 619a* (type); Arena road, *Bailey 305*; Caroni, *Bailey 311*; Balandra Bay, *Brittons & Hazen*; Point Radix, *Swabey*. The species is dedicated to the memory of J. H. Hart, F.L.S., Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Port-of-Spain, author of *Herbarium List*, 1908; some of my material, "arranged by J. H. H." as *Desmoncus major*, is the species now under discussion.

†3. *Desmoncus Brittonii*, spec. nov. Fig. 154.

Gracilis, ad 10 m. altus: pinnæ 6-8 paribus, oppositæ vel suboppositæ, angustæ, 20-30 cm. longæ et 2-3 cm. latæ, anguste longo-acuminatæ, aculei 1-3 subtus, petiolus validis aculeis 3-6 cm. longis, unci maxime validi et basi lata, 5-6 cm. longi: spatha 30 cm. vel plus longa, lata et dense armata spinis ad 15 mm. longis fere basi alba crassaque: fructus ovoideo-oblongi, fastigati ad acumen, 17 mm. longi.

Slender tall plant to 10 m. long, glabrous unless furfuraceous on petiole and rachis: pinnæ opposite or subopposite, narrow, 20-30 cm. long by 2-3 cm. broad at middle, strongly side-nerved, narrowly long-acuminate, with 1-3 prickles on midrib underneath, petiole with stout prickles 3-6 cm. long; cirrhus whip bearing pairs of retrorse-divaricate broad-based hooks to 6 cm. long: spathe or cymba 30 cm. or more long, heavily armed with spines to 15 mm. long most of which have conspicuous thickened white base: dry fruit ovoid-oblong and tapering to point, 17 mm. long by 9 or 10 mm. thick.

Thicket at Pointe-a-Pierre, *N. L. Britton 1035* (1920); in thickets along Arena Road, *Bailey 172* (type).

†4. *Desmoncus tobagonis*, spec. nov. LATTAN. Fig. 155.

Maxime validus vigorosusque: pinnæ oppositæ, latæ, brevi-acutæ, 20-30 cm. longæ, 4-6 cm. latæ, nudæ vel 1 vel 2 spinis, petiolus rachisque spinis rigidis 4-6 cm. longis, unci 3-4 cm. longi, recte reversi: spatha 30 cm. vel plus longa, lata, plana, crasse obsita aculeis brevibus basi crassa albaque: fructus brevi-oblongi, 12 mm. longi, 6 vel 7 mm. lati, rotundati apice.