

west of San Fernando de Apure, *C. E. Chardon*. San Fernando de Apure is on the Orinoco, western part of Estado de Bolivar, near the juncture of Rio de Apure.

† *Desmoncus Velezii*, spec. nov. Fig. 78.

Gracilis, scandens, glaber præter in spatha: folia circa 8 dm. longa; pinnæ 5-7 in utroque rachis latere, 16-20 cm. longæ, 4 cm. vel minus latæ, longo-lanceolatæ et longo-acutæ, valde multinervatæ, spinæ irregulares in rachi, 2-5 cm. longæ; unci terminales 5-7 paribus, crassi basi et recurvi, unci inferiores plani et 1 cm. lati, 8 cm. longi basi cirrhi ad 1 cm. longi apice: spatha circa 20 cm. longa, 3-4 cm. lata expansione, gracilibus aculeis sparsis 1 cm. vel minus longis; spadix tam latus quam longus, rami 8 cm. vel minus longi: fructus oblongi, 10-13 mm. longi, 1 cm. lati, inermes.

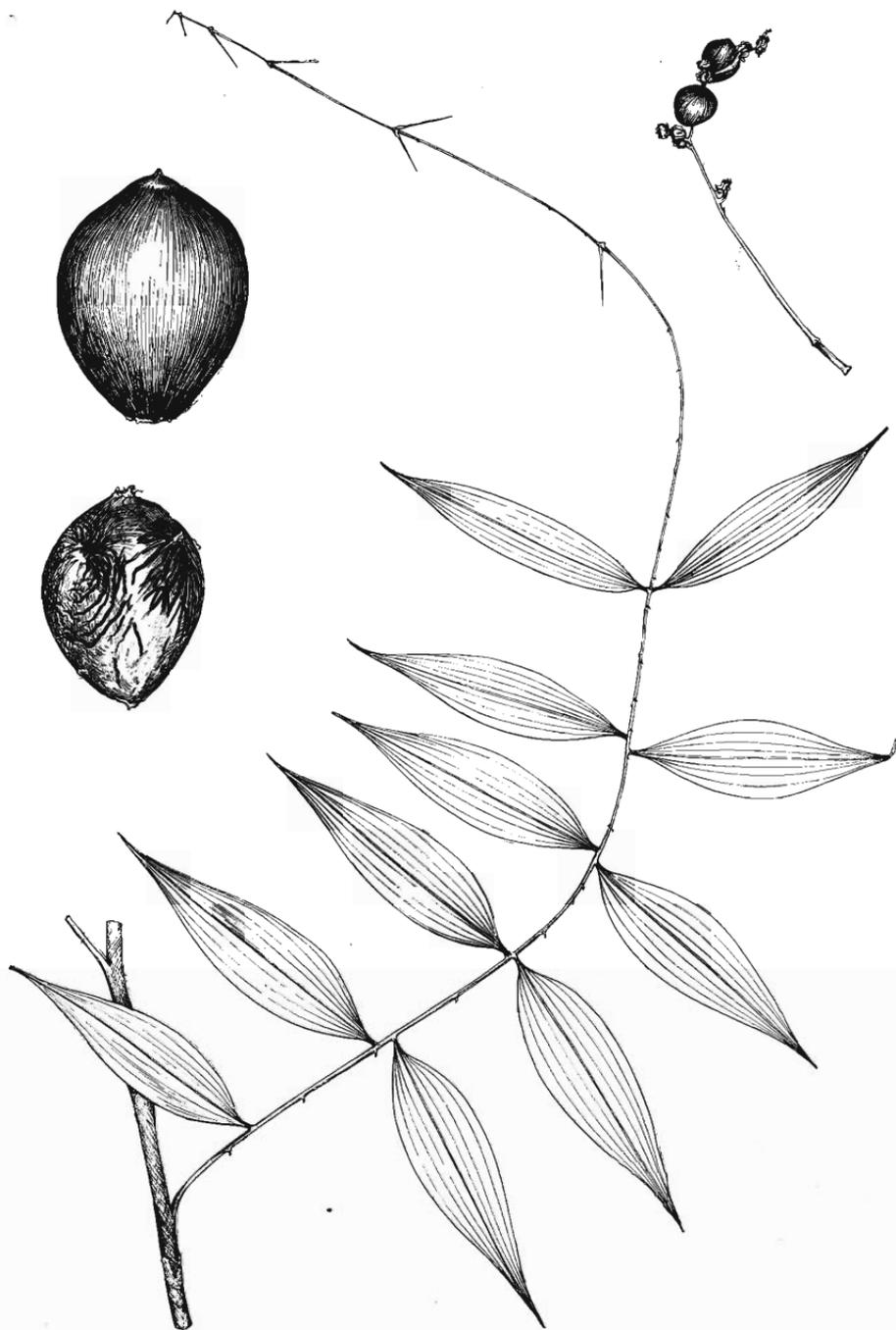
Slender but vigorous, tall-climbing: leaves thin, glabrous, green both surfaces, with opposite or scattered spines 3-5 cm. long on petiole and midcosta; pinnæ 10-12 or more, scattered or the upper ones opposite, lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, 12-20 cm. long, 2-3 cm. broad, acuminate, unarmed unless a spicule or two near apex, lateral longitudinal veins many but not very conspicuous; terminal unci or hooks broad, reflexed, not very sharp, thickened at base, 1-4 cm. long, lowest ones expanded: spathe narrow, 12-14 cm. long, 1.5-3 cm. broad, tapered to prominent point, covered loosely with short divaricate weak hair-like aciculæ, peduncle very short; spadix small, simple, about 9 cm. long, peduncle slightly aculeate; rachillæ very slender, prominently undulate; calyx cupulate, entire, about 2 mm. broad, exceeded somewhat by the pistil: fruit ellipsoid or obovoid, abruptly pointed, 1.5 cm. long, 1 cm. broad, unarmed.

Southwestern Venezuela, at Puerto Paez in Apure, *I. Velez* (of Puerto Rico) 2308.

† *Desmoncus vacivus*, spec. nov. Fig. 79.

Debillimus et ut videtur parvus, glaber, scandens, sparse armatus; caulis tenuis, 1 cm. vel minus crassus vaginis reticulatis apice: folia tenuia, viridia utrinque; pinnæ circa 5 paribus oppositis, lanceolato-ellipticæ, longiacuminatæ, 10-12 cm. longæ, 2-3.5 cm. latæ, costatæ; petiolus et costa media aculeis hamatis 1-2 mm. longis; hami terminales valde graciles, reflexi, circa 4 paribus, 2 cm. vel minus longi: fructus ellipsoidei, 2-2.5 cm. longi cum sicci, 2 cm. lati, apex brevissimus, glaber, inermis, scissus longitudine; semen valde reticulatum.

Very weak (powerless, *vacivus*) glabrous climber only minutely armed; stem thin, apparently not spiniferous, 1 cm. or less thick with short sheaths reticulate at apex: leaves thin, green both surfaces, with about 5 pairs of opposite lance-elliptic acuminate leaflets 10-12 cm. long and 2-3.5 cm. broad, lateral ribs prominent and intervening longitudinal veins not conspicuous; petiole and midrib bearing hooked prickles 1-2 mm. long; terminal hooks about 4 pairs at end of long cirrhus, reflexed, very slender, 2 cm. or less long; spathe not seen; spadix perhaps simple: fruit ellipsoid,



79. *DESMONCUS VACIVUS* $\times \frac{1}{3}$. Cirrus short and very slender. Fruit and nut $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$, the latter showing radiated micropyles.

large for the genus, 2-2.5 cm. long when dry and 2 cm. broad, glabrous, unarmed, apical point very short, shell at length splitting lengthwise, basilar cup remaining on the rachis; seed much reticulated.

Southern Colombia, Rio Igaraparaná, los alrededores de La Chorrera, Amazonas, altitude about 180 m., *R. E. Schultes 3941*.

9. COMMENTS ON REINHARDTIA AND MALORTIEA

Genus *Reinhardtia* was founded in 1845 by Liebmann on a plant from southern Mexico; person for whom it was named is not disclosed. Genus *Malortiea* was founded in 1853 by Wendland on a plant from Guatemala; it bears the name of Dr. Ernst V. Malortie, of the military service of the Kings of Hanover, where Wendland lived. Species in each genus are few. They are small or even very small palms with pinnate or pinnately-veined leaves, allied perhaps to the *Geonoma* and *Chamædorea* groups.

The two genera were united by Drude, 1889, kept distinct by Dammer in 1901, united again by Burret in 1932, separated again by Bailey in 1943. I still hold to the separation, but shall not now repeat the reasons stated in *Gentes Herbarum*, vi, 258-260. New and better material and notes may considerably modify judgments in these groups.

True *Reinhardtias* are two, *R. elegans*, Liebm., in southern Mexico, and *R. gracilior*, Burret, in British Honduras, and I now add a third; *R. elegans* has never been fully described. True *Malortieas* are five: *Malortiea gracilis*, Wendl., Guatemala, *M. Koschnyana*, Wendl., Costa Rica, *M. latisecta*, Wendl., Guatemala, *M. rostrata*, Bailey (*Gent. Herb.* vi, 260, 1943), Costa Rica, *M. simplex*, Wendl., Costa Rica. This list eliminates *M. intermedia*, *M. lacerata*, *M. speciosa*, which are *nomina nuda*, and *M. Tuerckheimii* which is *Kinetostigma Tuerckheimii*, Burret.

Reinhardtia elegans, Liebm. ex Mart. *Hist. Nat. Palm.* iii, 311 (1849).

Fig. 80.

Erect tree with single bole 2.5-6 m. tall, with interfoliar inflorescence, unarmed: leaves terminal, horizontal, 1-2 m. long, in an umbrella-like head; pinnæ linear to linear-lanceolate, in many pairs closely set, 8-12 dm. long, slenderly pointed, 1-1.5 cm. broad, dull in color to semi-lucid on both surfaces, midrib very prominent, main parallel side veins 2-4, margins smooth, petiole channelled: spadix erect, forked above into about a dozen erect nude angled nearly parallel straight branches 3-4 dm. long, peduncle long; flowers white, lightly immersed in a cup of short bracts and sepals, petals longer, acute and persisting, sterile flowers bearing several or many stamens with very short filaments and no pistillodes, fertile flowers with no staminodes and a trigonous uniloculed ovary: