

to the endocarp on one side throughout its whole length; raphe forming a loose network; albumen ruminant; embryo subbasilar.—A non-spiny palm of moderate height, with equally pinnate leaves; petiole with a complete basal sheath; pinnæ strongly reduplicate at the base, 1-nerved, with a few scales beneath, the terminal pinnæ confluent. **DIS-TRIB.** The only species.

1. **D. alba**, *Wendl. in Linnæa*, xxxix. 181. Palm 40–50 feet high, with a stem 8–9 in. diameter, dilated at the base. Leaves 8–12 feet long; petiole semiterete, 6–18 in. long, grooved down the face; pinnæ  $2\frac{1}{2}$ –3 feet long, 2–3 in. broad, lanceolate acuminate, cuneate at the base, widely reduplicate, with one prominent medial nerve, and 3 lateral secondary nerves on each side, all bearing a few medially-attached scales, especially towards the base of the pinnæ; veins and margins of pinnæ green or reddish. Spadix 2 feet long, with a very short often tomentose peduncle; branches erect or slightly reflexed, 6–18 in. long, very zigzag when young; flowers often distichous at the base of the branches; spathes 1– $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet long. Inner segments of male perianth  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. long, three times as long as the outer. Fruit ovoid-oblong, pointed, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, purplish. *Areca alba*, *Bory, Voy. i.* 306; *Bojer, Hort. Maur.* 305.

**MAURITIUS**, common, *Horne! Balfour!* **SEYCHELLES**, not indigenous, *Horne!* Also Bourbon. In a plant from Round Island, Mr. Horne says one or two of the lower branches of the spadix are subtended by membranous bracts. *Palmiste blanc*. A very variable palm, of which the following are the principal forms.

*D. (Areca) rubra*, Hort., sent by Mr. Horne. This in its young state has darker green leaves, with primary veins and margins dark red, the redness disappearing very much in adult plants. Branches of the spadix longer and more reflexed than in the type. *Palmiste rouge*.

*D. (Areca) furfuracea*, Hort., differs from the last by the tomentose character of the petiole and leaf-sheath of the young plant.

*Var. aurea*, Balf. fil. Stem about 30 feet high, smaller and more slender than in the type. Leaves 4–8 feet long; petiole 8 in. long; leaf-sheath 1–2 ft. long; pinnæ  $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 feet long, an inch broad; secondary veins scarcely visible. Branches of the spadix rigidly erect, 9–11 in. long. Flowers half the size of those of the type. Fruit cylindrico-conic,  $\frac{2}{3}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long. Young plants bright orange. *Areca aurea*, Hort. **RODRIGUEZ**, common. *Palmiste bon*.

## 5. ACANTHOPHŒNIX, Wendl.

**Monoicous.** Flowers in spirally-disposed 3-flowered clusters, slightly immersed in the branches of a twice-branching slightly drooping spadix, the female flower below and between two males. Spathes 2. **MALE.** Inner segments of the perianth valvate, linear, acute, two or three times the length of the outer. Stamens 12 or fewer, exerted; filaments long, twisted; anthers linear-sagittate. Rudimentary pistil elongated, deeply bifid. **FEMALE.** Perianth-segments imbricate. Staminodes forming a minute ring. Fruit small, globose; scar of the stigma subbasal; mesocarp thin, fibrous; endocarp crustaceous. Seed ascending, slightly compressed laterally; branches of the raphe spreading from the hilum, and anastomosing on the opposite side of the seed; albu-