

lobed staminodial tubes occur only "in species with branched inflorescences" (Wessels Boer 1968: 104). Our perusal of *Geonoma* descriptions published since Wessels Boer's revision has turned up no additional species that flagrantly defy his sectional circumscriptions after the manner of *G. hugonis*.

The French Guianan *Geonoma oldemanii* Granv., assigned to sect. *Taenianthera* by its author (de Granville 1975), is perhaps the best overall phenetic match for *G. hugonis*. The two species share simple leaf blades, spicate inflorescences, and digitately lobed staminodial tubes, and both exhibit a separation between the prophyll and peduncular bract. However, this separation is not nearly so great in *G. oldemanii* (2–6 cm) as in *G. hugonis* (12.8–29 cm), and the peduncular bract of the former species is not even exerted from the prophyll, let alone inserted above its mouth. *Geonoma oldemanii* also has proportionately narrower and much longer (115–130 cm) leaf blades than *G. hugonis*.

Geonoma schottiana Mart. (sect. *Geonoma*), of southeastern Brazil, may be the only *Geonoma* species with tubular inflorescence bracts, other than *G. hugonis*, to have the peduncular bract inserted beyond the mouth of the prophyll. It does not otherwise resemble *G. hugonis*, however; the inflorescence is branched to two orders, the flower pits are decussate, and the staminodial tube is shortly dentate.

The relative lengths and position of insertion of the major inflorescence bracts (prophyll and peduncular bract) are important diagnostic characters in *Geonoma* (Wessels Boer 1968:26–28). There seem to be two basic patterns, correlated with developmental changes in ontogeny. In one, the bracts are short and fat (relative to the overall size of the plant), and are inserted close together at the base of the peduncle. The peduncular bract is enclosed in the prophyll, the bracts split at the sutures to reveal the developing inflorescence and are early deciduous (during or shortly after anthesis), and the rachillae are coiled in bud. In the other pattern the bracts are tubular, persistent even in fruit, and split distally for only a short distance to allow the inflorescence to emerge by elongation. In the latter group there is variation as to the position of insertion of the peduncular bract, from proximal on the peduncle (within 1–3 cm of the prophyll) in the majority of species, to distal on the peduncle but within the prophyll (as in *G. jussieuana*, *G.*

hoffmanniana H. Wendl. ex Spruce, and *G. lehmannii* Dammer ex Burret), to beyond the mouth of the prophyll (*G. hugonis* and *G. schottiana*). *Geonoma stricta* (Poit.) Kunth and *G. monospatha* (described below), which have only one inflorescence bract, may exemplify a third developmental pattern. In these species the bract splits lengthwise to reveal the inflorescence and is deciduous shortly after anthesis (as in the first pattern).

The only somewhat aberrant specimen among the paratypes of *Geonoma hugonis* is *Hammel 6134* (MO), which accounts for the parenthetical maxima for leaf-blade length and width in the species description. This is also the only collection from Cerro Pate Macho and, apparently, one of just two collections from the Atlantic slope (Prov. Bocas del Toro). It is in no other way unusual.

***Geonoma monospatha* de Nevers sp. nov.**
(Fig. 3).

Geonoma stricta aemulans, differt pedunculo rachillis longiore inflorescentiaque glabra vel stellato-pubescenti. Typus: PANAMA. Veraguas: Cerro Tute, just west of Santa Fe, 8°40'N, 81°05'W, 800–1,000 m, 27 Feb. 1995, de Nevers, Henderson, Galeano & Bernal 10556 (holotypus PMA!; isotypi CAS, COL, K, MO, NY).

Stems 1–2.5 m × 6–9 mm, cespitose, erect, smooth and cane-like; leaves 5–9, cleanly deciduous; sheath 2–4 cm, at first tubular and encircling stem, at maturity encircling the stem only basally, split opposite the petiole distally; petiole beyond sheath 6–12 cm, flattened adaxially, rounded abaxially, densely appressed-scurfy, glabrescent; rachis 15–18 cm; blade 19–24 × 5–5.5 cm, simple and bifid (1/6 to 1/4 its length), or trijugate, or irregularly divided (the leaves of taller stems tending to be simple basally grading into divided apically), parallel-sided, cuneate at base, subglabrous to densely appressed-scurfy abaxially and often setulose, drying a light chocolate-brown, with 17–32 primary lateral veins per side, these not conspicuously raised, or conspicuous abaxially, diverging from the midrib at ca. 25°–35°; inflorescences 1–4, interfoliar or infrafoliar at anthesis, infrafoliar in fruit, with two rachillae or (less commonly) spicate or with three rachillae; peduncle 4.3–7 cm × 2–4 mm, flattened, glabrous to densely brownish scurfy; prophyll 4.5–6 cm ×

