



67. Spiralling *Coccothrinax argentata*, Bahamas. Photograph by R. W. Read.

gracefully when planted in groups or clusters of three or more individuals. The trunks will tend to grow out away from their neighbors toward the greatest source of light. *Ptychosperma elegans* does this effectively as does the coconut most frequently. Another species of *Ptychosperma*, known as the "Rakii" palm at the Fairchild Tropical Garden,

does not curve away from its neighbor. Instead, a group of these slender palms will grow straight up with their heads in a mass. Who can explain the ways of palms?

People often ask why the coconut palm always leans. The coconut does not *always* lean, but so many do that we rarely see a straight one. The coconut palm usually leans to grow toward the greatest light source. Thus, coconuts growing along the coasts of tropical islands lean out over the water in order to be in full sun away from the shade of other trees. In plantations, however, they often grow erect. This mode of growth is controlled by hormonal processes which cannot easily be explained here.

One of the most difficult things to explain is the manner in which some palm stems form a spiral. A *Livistona decipiens* in Florida has a semi-spiralled trunk and I have seen others in various collections. But I had never seen one quite as distinct as the one pictured in Fig. 67. This *Coccothrinax argentata*, or silver thatch palm, was found while vacationing on Paradise Island (Hog Island) in the Bahamas near Nassau. No, it wasn't a vine that did it, but are there any other suggestions? Hormones?

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Some Corrected Epithets for Palm Species

The editor realized with shame, while preparing manuscript for the index to the current volume of *PRINCIPES*, that he had been guilty of a *lapsus* in using the epithet *pembana* for a new species of *Chrysalidocarpus* (*Principes* 6: 109). The generic name *Chrysalidocarpus* is masculine in gender, the epithet must agree, and the name should be corrected to *Chrysalidocarpus pemanus*.

A further confession relates to new combinations published in *Gentes Herbarum* 8: 462-470, 1956, wherein epithets in feminine form were transferred without change to *Clinostigma* and *Ptychosperma*, both neuter in gender. The following names, therefore, are correct: *Clinostigma carolinense* ("carolinensis," p. 462); *C. ponapense* ("ponapensis," p. 463); *C. Savoryanum* ("Savoryana," p. 465); *Ptychosperma Ledermannianum* ("Ledermanniana," p. 469); *P. palauense* ("palauensis," p. 470).

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