

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Hermann Wendland and Otto Drude erected a number of new palm genera, many of them familiar horticulturally, in *Linnaea* 39:153-238. 1875. The origin and pronunciation of their names follow:

Actinorhysis (ak tin oh rye tiss) was derived from two Greek words, *aktis* (a ray or beam) and *rhytis* (wrinkle or fold), because of the way in which the ruminations of the endosperm radiate.

Archontophoenix (are kon toe fée nix), so named because of the regal stature and beautiful foliage of the palm, comes from the Greek *archon* (chief, ruler) and *phoenix* (date palm, or by extension a palm). The common name king palm is derived directly from the generic name.

Carpoxydon (car póx i lon) from the Greek *karpos* (fruit) and *xylon* (wood) was suggested by the woody endocarp of the fruit.

Coccoloba (see lo cók kus), a genus now considered synonymous with *Metroxylon*, takes its name from the Greek words *koilos* (hollow) and *kokkos* (grain, seed). The endosperm of the species originally described in the genus has a deep excavation on one side.

Dictyosperma (dik tee oh spér mah) is derived from the Greek *diktyon* (a net) and *sperma* (seed) because of the laxly reticulate or netted branches of the raphe on the seed coat.

Grisebachia (greek eh báh kee ah), an illegitimate synonym for *Howea*, commemorates a German botanist, August Heinrich Rudolf Grisebach (1814-1879).

Hedyotis (heh diss sée pee) is called umbrella palm by inhabitants of Lord Howe Island. The generic name, taken from the Greek *hedys* (pleasant, delight-

ful) and *skepe* (shade), carries the idea of umbrella into botanical language.

Hydriastele (high dree ah stée lee) is derived from the Greek words for a water nymph (*Hydrias*) and a pillar or column (*stele*). The appellation was given because the trunks reach lofty heights near springs.

Laccospadix (lak ko spáy dix) is a genus in which the flowers are borne within pits on the inflorescence. The name, therefore, was taken from the Greek words *lakkos* (pond, cistern, reservoir) and *spadix* (frond, branch of a palm, and botanically the palm inflorescence). The generic name was treated as masculine by Wendland and Drude but is feminine in derivation and should be so treated.

Lepidorrhachis (leh pid oh ráy kiss) has an indument of scales along the costa and nerves of the leaf which caused Wendland and Drude to coin the name from the Greek *lepis* (a scale) and *rhachis* (spine, backbone). The name was spelled *Lepidorrhachis* by O. F. Cook who raised it to generic status but the double r is classically correct since r at the beginning of a word is doubled when by inflection or composition a simple vowel is brought before it.

Linospadix (lie no spáy dix) from the Greek *linon* (flax or anything made from it, thread) and *spadix* (frond, branch of a palm, and botanically the inflorescence) was so named because of the slender elongate simple inflorescence of *L. monostachya*. Wendland and Drude considered this name masculine as they did *Laccospadix* but it is correctly feminine in gender.

Loxococcus (lox oh cók kus) was derived from the Greek *loxos* (slanting) and *kokkos* (grain, seed) because of the oblique development of seed and fruit.

Nenga (néng ga) was modified from a Javanese vernacular name, *Nenge*, and used by Blume as a specific epithet for *Pinanga Nenga*. When this species was set apart as a distinct genus, Wendland and Drude simply used the epithet as a generic name. Because the generic and specific terms cannot be duplicated the correct name for the original species is now *Nenga pumila*.

Rhopalostylis (roe pal oh sty liss) from the Greek *rhopalon* (club) and *stylis* (pillar or column, and botanically the style) was chosen because the rudimentary female organ in the male flower is club-shaped.

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"Ledin sent the manuscript to the publisher, the American Horticultural Society, just before his death.

"Publication date has been set tentatively for this coming winter. It will be the most complete work on palms so far turned out in the Western Hemisphere.

"Although Ledin was born in Minnesota, no other botanist was more familiar with native Florida plants.

"He knew the names of the smallest things that grew at our feet, and recalled them as easily as a socialite introducing her dinner guests.

"Ledin was a great deal more aware of the things around him than the average individual. His trained eyes caught detail never seen by untrained eyes. For to him nothing in nature was insignificant.

"His association with Florida tied him ever closer to its wonders. He knew the 'glades, the hammocks, the pinelands, the swamps and the sand dunes.

"How much Ledin loved the wilds of Florida is shown in his will, in which he requested that his ashes be scattered over the Everglades."

Editor's Corner

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Mrs. Eileen H. Butts of 253 John Anderson Highway, Ormond Beach, Florida, writes of the naturalization of *Livistona chinensis* in Florida from plants introduced by her uncle, Henry Hubbard. Mrs. Butts adds the following paragraphs concerning the association of her uncle and David Fairchild:

"As a lad of nineteen, David Fairchild knew and loved Henry Hubbard. They both served in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., under Sterling Morton, Henry's cousin.

"In 1942, when I first mentioned my uncle Henry to Dr. Fairchild, his pleasure and enthusiasm knew no bounds, and it was then I learned of their early association. David Fairchild declared that my uncle had been an inspiration to him and one of the greatest naturalists who ever lived. He then proceeded to write in my copy of *Garden Islands of the Great East* the following inscription:

'To Eileen Hubbard Butts

When I was a boy of 19 I met your uncle Henry Hubbard. He was in Washington and thrilled a group of young scientists with his stories of caves and ambrosia beetles.

Affectionately yours,

DAVID FAIRCHILD'"

The plates borrowed for reprinting illustrations of *Sabal* were somehow switched so that *Sabal wresana* rather than *S. Rosei* actually appears in Figure 58 of this volume (July). When proof was read, the switch eluded this now apologetic editor. The real *Sabal Rosei* appears as Figure 60 of this issue.