



Seven New Species of *Areca* (Arecaceae)

CHARLIE D. HEATUBUN^{1,2}

¹Fakultas Kehutanan, Universitas Papua, Jl. Gunung Salju, Amban, Manokwari 98314, Papua Barat, Indonesia

²Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, United Kingdom. E-mail: charlie_deheatboen@yahoo.com

Abstract

Seven species of *Areca* (Arecaceae) are here described as new: *Areca bakeri*, *A. churchii*, *A. dransfieldii*, *A. gurita*, *A. mogeana*, *A. riparia* and *A. triginticollina*. Five of the species are endemic to Borneo, one to Sumatra and one to Cambodia. A discussion of morphological characters, such as habit, leaf structure, inflorescence architecture and floral structure is presented for the species and putative relatives. Distribution, ecology, habitat, uses and conservation status are also discussed.

Key words: Palmae, palms, South-East Asia, taxonomy

Introduction

The palm genus *Areca* Linnaeus (1753: 1189) is distributed from India and South China through Malesia to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (Dransfield 1984, Dransfield *et al.* 2008), and contains approximately 50 species (Henderson 2009). Since the last revision of the entire genus by Furtado (1933), concepts of generic limits and relationships have been modified and tested phylogenetically (Dransfield 1984, Govaerts & Dransfield 2005, Loo *et al.* 2006, Dransfield *et al.* 2008, Baker *et al.* 2009, 2011), and a number of new species have been described (Heatubun 2008, Henderson *et al.* 2010). A full account of the genus is currently in preparation with the aim of critically assessing Furtado's treatment and the work that has followed it in the light of new materials and data now available.

As a result of recent field trips to Borneo and herbarium visits (K, L, SAR), the author discovered a seven new species, five of which are endemic to Borneo (*Areca bakeri*, *A. churchii*, *A. dransfieldii*, *A. gurita*, *A. mogeana*), whereas *A. triginticollina* and *A. riparia* are known only from Sumatra and Cambodia respectively. For the time being, these new taxa are not placed in an infrageneric classification because the subgenera and sections of Furtado (1933) are currently the subject of a molecular systematic study, which, it is anticipated, will result in the new species being placed within a revised generic classification.

Taxonomic Treatment

Areca bakeri Heatubun, *sp. nov.*

A ceteris speciebus Borneensibus habitu acaule-caespitoso, petiolis longis 100–105 cm, inflorescentia erecta rigida, floribus staminatis distichis, floribus foemineis singulariter dispositis distincta.

Type:—CULTIVATED. Borneo, Sarawak: Cultivated at the Semengoh Forest Arboretum, 22 April 1996, Baker *et al.* 716 (holotype K!, isotypes KEP, SING, SAR!).