

A NEW SPECIES OF CERATUZAMIA (CYCADACEAE) FROM SAN LUIS POTOSÍ

GARRIE P. LANDRY AND MARCIA C. WILSON

Garrie P. Landry (Department of Botany, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803) and Marcia C. Wilson (Galveston Road, Brownsville, TX 78521). A new species of *Ceratozamia* (Cycadaceae) from San Luis Potosí. Brittonia 31: 422-424. 1979.—A new species of *Ceratozamia* (Cycadaceae) from San Luis Potosí, Mexico is described. This species differs from all others in the genus by the clustering of leaflets along the rachis.

In early 1960, Luciano E. Guerra, a commercial plant collector from Mission, Texas imported one of the most unusual American cycads. Guerra had been an avid cycad collector for many years and immediately recognized that this species of *Ceratozamia* (Cycadaceae) was unlike any he had seen before. This cycad is unquestionably new to science and has remained undescribed since its first introduction eighteen years ago.

Ceratozamia hildae Landry and Wilson, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Truncus ovoideus vel subcylindricus, 9-15 cm altus, 8-12 cm diametro; folia 5-20, stipulata 1-1.5 m longa, basi tomentosa; petiolus armatus; foliola lanceolata vel recurvata, fasciculata in rachi, 7-22 cm longa, 1-5 cm lata, 8-30-nervia, apice acuta; strobilus pedunculatus fulvus, elongatus, subcylindricus, apice mucronatus, 18-25 cm longa, ca 3 cm diam.; pedunculus inermis, 3.5 cm longus, basi tomentosus; microsporophylla bicornuata, cornubus 3.0 mm longis; strobilus pedunculatus, olivaceus, subcylindricus, mucronatus, 10-14 cm longus, 3-5 cm diam.; pedunculus inermis 6-9 cm longus, 0.7 cm diam., basi tomentosus; megasporophylla peltata vel transverse hexagona ca 15 mm alta, 10-15 lata, cornubus magnis bicornuta cristaque prominente inter cornua, praedita.

Trunk ovoid to subcylindric; leaves stipulate, tomentose at base; petiole armed with spines; leaflets lanceolate to recurved, clustered along rachis, acute at apex; strobilis tawny-brown, mucronate; peduncle unarmed, tomentose at base; microsporophylls with two horns 3.0 mm long; strobilus olive-green, mucronate; peduncle unarmed, tomentose at base; megasporophylls with two large horns and a prominent ridge between them.

TYPE: The type specimens were obtained from plants grown outdoors at the home of Prof. Walter J. Harman, 5988 South Pollard Parkway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 6 Jun 1976, *Garrie Landry 76521* (HOLOTYPE: GH; ISOTYPES: MEXU, MICH, US, NY, FTG, LSU). These plants were obtained originally from Larry Bussell, Valrico, Florida, who collected them several km N of Xitilla, San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

Additional specimen examined: *Landry 75495* (GH).

From its initial introduction into cultivation, *C. hildae* has been known in the horticultural trade as *C. "hilda."* Guerra chose the name for his daughter, now Hilda Guerra Walker. In honor of Guerra's lifelong interest in cycads we have retained the name he selected.

Ceratozamia hildae has been found in only one area in southern San Luis Potosí. Located several kilometers north of the town of Xitilla where it inhabits dense tropical rainforest of the Sierra Madre Oriental at an elevation of 3600 km to 4500 km. The slopes are frequently steep with much outcropping of limestone.

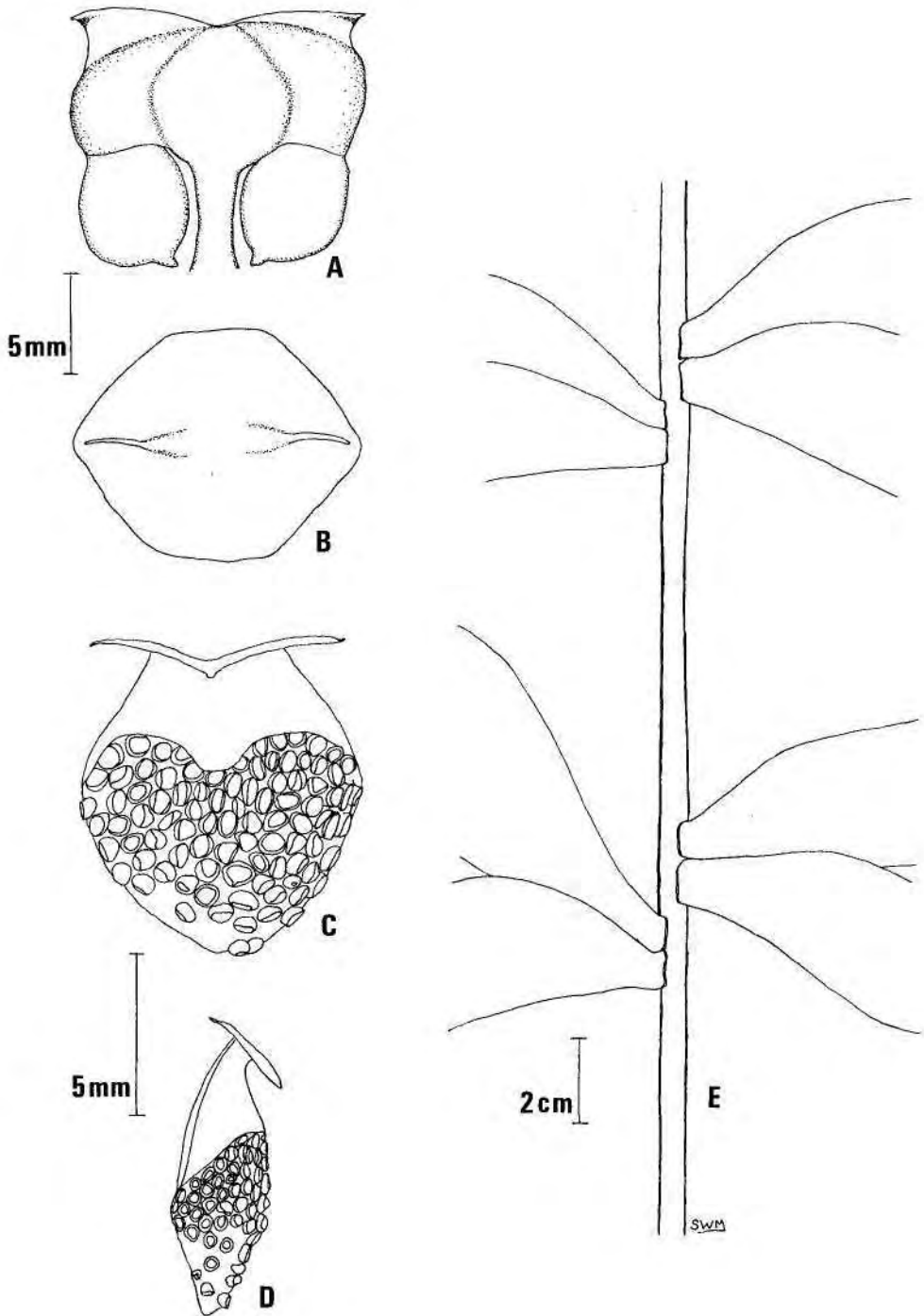


FIG. 1. *Ceratozamia hildae* Landry & Wilson. A, B. Megasporophyll, ventral view and distal view. C, D. Microsporophyll, ventral view and lateral view. E. Portion of leaf showing position and clustering of leaflets.

The species shows no immediate affinities with any presently known. The size of the leaflets falls within the limits of variability for *C. mexicana* Brongn., from which it is certainly distinct. It differs notably from all other species in the consistent clustering of leaflets on the rachis and their papyraceous texture. These distinctive features have given rise to the common name of bamboo cycad.

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