

*Cycas basaltica*, Gardner n. sp.

Palm-like, with a stout erect trunk of 4-8 feet, swollen at the base to a diameter of two feet, otherwise 18 inches diameter, rough and dark grey.

Leaves to 4 feet in length, hoary-tomentose when young, but becoming glabrous with age. Petioles to 8 inches in length, with concave bases. Leaflets numerous, rigid, linear, mucronate, hoary beneath, even when old, the margins somewhat recurved, the upper ones decurrent to the next one below, the lowest not at all or scarcely decurrent and distant, the spines

of the petiole not evident on the mature leaves, and but few on the younger leaves. Leaf-rhachis convex, or with a prominent ridge or angle above, narrower than the lower side, which is quite invisible from above.

Male-cones narrow-conical, the scales narrow-cuneate, with incurved points, anther-cells covering the scales beneath from the base to the incurved portion of the scale.

Carpophylls petiolate, densely ferruginous-tomentose; ovules usually four, globular, the blade of the carpophyll entire, lanceolate, with an acuminate apex ending in a rigid pungent glabrous point.

Seeds globular, very slightly depressed, hard and glabrous, glaucous when young.

Basalt hills near the Lawley river, in open forests of *Eucalyptus Foelscheana*, and *E. Spenceriana*, fruiting in August.

The type is 1490, of the Forests Department Herbarium.

This new species has a close affinity to *Cycas media*, R.Br., but the carpophylls are very different, having a narrow entire blade; the leaves are slightly different, those of *C. media* having a flat midrib broader below than above; glabrous leaflets in the adult, with flat margins not at all recurved.

The material of *Cycas basaltica* is not very complete, but is sufficient to exhibit the decided differences of carpophylls, and the completely globular smaller seeds, together with the smaller differences of the leaves. I have considered these collectively as sufficient to maintain this as a distinct species. It has affinity also with *C. Cairnsiana*, F.v.M., differing chiefly in the number of ovules.