

THE FAMILIES OF CYCADS AND THE ZAMIACEAE OF AUSTRALIA.

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(Four Text-figures.)

[Read 25th March, 1952.]

5. *M. communis* L. Johnson, sp. nov.

Typification: About three miles west of Mossy Point, near Mogo, New South Wales, J. W. Vickery, iv.1958 (NSW.43071), female. HOLOTYPE.

Caudex plerumque subterraneus (per contractionem radicum sepultus) sed in solo minime profundo usque ad 1-2 m. altus, 30-60 cm. diametro. Frondes in corona usque ad 50-100 sed saepe pauciores, 70-200 cm. longae, petiolo (basi lanata expansa exclusa) 12-40 cm. longo, rhachi non torta (stirpibus insanis exceptis) plus minusve appianata, ad pinnas infimas 8-20 mm. lata, supra vel concava vel convexa aliquando carinata, sulcis duobus lateralibus angustis e basibus pinnarum decurrentibus instructa, infra subangulato-convexa. Pinnae 70-130, patentes, angulo acuto prorsum directae, plurimae arctae sed infimae saepe distantes, quam illis *M. miquelii* crassiores rigidioresque, integrae, rectae, lineares, eae longissimae 16-35 cm. longae, 3-15 infimarum gradatim reductae spiniformesque, 4-12 mm. latae, infra vix prominule nervis 7-13 striatae, apicem pungentem versus sensim angustatae, basi pallida arcte contractae et in axillis callosae rugosaeque (in sicco), supra saturate virides haud vel vix nitentes, pagina inferiore sola stomatibus instructa. Coni feminei 1-6, masculi 1-10, axillares inter frondibus, basi axis conigeri cataphyllis spiniformibus (ad 18 cm. longis) instructa. Coni masculi cylindracei (vetustiores aliquanto curvati) 20-45 cm. longi, 8-12 cm. diametro (5-8 cm. in stirpibus depauperatis), sporophyllis cuneatis vel obovato-cuneatis 2-4 cm. longis, 1.5-2.5 cm. latis, spinis planis erectis 0.1-5 cm. longis (longissimis 2-5 cm. versus apicem coni) basi 5-12 mm. latis. Coni feminei cylindracei, 20-45 cm. longi, 10-20 cm. diametro, in axibus 8-30 cm. longis 2-3 (-4?) cm. crassis gesti, sporophyllis 4-7 cm. longis (stipite 3-4.5 cm. incluso) parte terminali expansa glauca maturitate plerumque latitudine (3-8.5 cm.) quam altitudine (1.5-4.3 cm.) saltem duplo majore, spinis planis erectis, ad basin coni brevissimis (1-2.5 cm. longis) versus apicem longissimis (4-8 cm.), basi 8-20 mm. latis. Semina 3-4.5 cm. longa, 2-3 cm. crassa, integumentum parte exteriori carnosum miniatum. Chromosomata somatica $2n = 18$.

Description (English), *specimens* and full *discussion*: See Johnson in Anderson, *Flora of N.S.W.*, part 1 (in press).

Distribution: New South Wales: Coast and ranges from Macleay River to Bega and westward to the head of the Goulburn River, in dry sclerophyll forest, on sandy or stony soils.

This is the plant, familiar to every botanist who has worked in the Sydney district, which has been wrongly known in New South Wales as "*M. spiralis*"; it is not the species which has been called "*M. spiralis*" in Queensland (see below, under *M. spiralis* and *M. lucida*). Despite frequent references to it in the literature under this and other misapplied names (see Johnson, in Anderson, *l.c.*), it has never been described as a new species, hence the present description. The specific epithet reflects the abundance of this species in many parts of the Coast districts of New South Wales. *M. communis* shows a good deal of individual and some local variation in size of organs, but is clearly discontinuous in nature from related species of section *Macrozamia*. The Type is characteristic of the most luxuriant forms from the South Coast. Despite its occurrence in places near stands of certain species of section *Parozamia*, I have not yet found any evident hybridism either in the wild or in cultivated collections. Nevertheless, to judge by the behaviour of other species (e.g. *M. moorei*), hybrids are to be expected. *M. communis* is cultivated in gardens in Australia and overseas. Its well-known vernacular name is usually spelt "Burrawang", but today pronounced "Burrawong". For a discussion of the past nomenclatural confusion surrounding this species see Johnson in Anderson, *l.c.*