THE FAMILIES OF CYCADS AND THE ZAMIACEAE OF AUSTRALIA.


(Four Text-figures.)

[Read 25th March, 1953]

102 THE FAMILIES OF CYCADS AND THE ZAMIACEAE OF AUSTRALIA.

8. M. LUCIDA L. Johnson, sp. nov.

Typification: Southern side of Ngungun, abt. 400 ft. alt., Glass House Mountains, Queensland, L. A. S. Johnson, 13.vi.1951 (NSW.40668), vegetative. Holotype. (Since no good material with cones was available, I have nominated as the type specimen which I have seen living in the field.)

Caudex plerumque subterraneus, 10–20 (-30?) cm. diametro. Frondes in corona plerumque 2–15 (nonnullum usque ad 40?), 80–110 cm. longae, petiolo (basim lanata expansa exclusa) 25–50 cm. longo; rhachis non torta, teretiuscula, ad pinnas infimas 3–7 mm. lata, supra saepissime rotundato-convexa (sed nonnullum appplanata vel proxime plus minusve medio subsuicata), sulcis duobus lateralisibus angustis et basibus pinnarum decurrentibus instructa (in sicco), infra semper rotundato-convexa (haud angulata). Pinnae 50–100, patentes (seriebus duabus tamen non in eodem plano) et presentim versus apices suos decurruntae, plurimae angulo acuto prorsum directae sed infimae cum rhachi angulum rectum saepi formantes, basi tortae, plurimae arctae sed infimae saepi 1–5–3 cm. distantes, integrae, plerqueque plus minusve recurvato-falcatae (sed versus apices suos aliquando prorsum curvatae), lineatae, eae longissimae 15–35 cm. longae, infimae haud vel vix abbreviatae, 7–11 mm. latae, infra nervis prominentibus 5–11 striatæ, apicem pungentem versus sensim angustatæ, basi conspicue pallida callosiuscula sed non rugosa constrictæ, supra nitentes virides, pagina inferiore sola stomatibus instructa. Coni maturi non visi, probabiliter illis M. spiralis similes: sporophyllis masculis usque ad 4 cm. longis, spinis brevibus. Conos ad M. lucidam probabiliter pertinentes, F. M. Bailey (1902) sequens nunc describo: Axis coniger usque ad 30 cm. longus. Coni masculi cylindracei, 15 cm. longi (vel longiores), ca. 4 cm. diametro. [immaturi? L.J.] spinis sporophyllorum infimorum obsolescentibus eis sporophyllorum apicalium usque ad 1/2 cm. longis. Coni feminei 15–20 cm. longi, 7–9 cm. diametro, sporophyllorum parte terminali ad 4 cm. lata et 2 cm. alta, spinis 0–6 cm. longis longissimis versus apicem coni dispositis. Semina ca. 2–5 cm. longa, ca. 2 cm. crassa, integumenti parte exteriori rubella.

Description (English) and discussion of misapplied names: See Johnson in Anderson, Flora of N.S.W., part 1 (in press).
Distribution: Queensland and New South Wales: Southern Coast region of Queensland from Wide Bay to Moreton District, and Clarence River (N. Coast of N.S.W.).

Specimens examined: Queensland: Southern side of Ngungun, abt. 400 ft. alt., Glass House Mountains, L. A. S. Johnson, 13.vi.1951 (NSW.40668); Mt. Coonowrin, Glass House Mountains, ca. 300 ft., C. E. Hubbard 4112, 21.ix.1930 (BRI); Taylor’s Range, near Brisbane, C. T. White, i.1912 (BRI); Palmwoods, C. T. White, 6.v.1907 (BRI); Enoggera Creek, F. M. Bailey, 7.i.1875 (BRI); Enoggera, C. T. White, vi.1919 (NSW.40699); Cedar Creek, near Brisbane, C. T. White 1961, 6.v.1923 (NSW.40671); Brisbane, J. L. Boorman, iv.1899 (NSW.40670). New South Wales: Three miles E. of Dalmorton, L. A. S. Johnson and E. F. Constable, vi.1957 (NSW.43069). Living and preserved cultivated material also examined.

This is the species which has been wrongly known in Queensland, but not in New South Wales, as M. spiralis (see below, under M. spiralis). Though related to the true M. spiralis, it clearly constitutes a quite distinct series of populations, and is readily distinguished in cultivation as well as in the wild. M. lucida is characterized by its long slender petioles, not or scarcely twisted rachis, and the curved, very glossy (whence the specific epithet) pinnae with sharply demarcated whitish but not very callous bases. Though it does not form dense stands it is widely spread in hilly country of the coast districts of southern Queensland, but in New South Wales only a single small stand is known as yet. It has been cultivated in the Sydney Botanic Gardens for many years and there maintains its distinctive appearance. For further treatment see the forthcoming Flora of New South Wales, part 1, where a probable hybrid population derived from M. lucida and the very different M. moorei is also discussed.