

altissima Klotzsch ex Jahn becomes a synonym for *Dietyocaryum fuscum*.

The *Socratea* from Puerto Cabello is very similar to *S. exorrhiza*, but I believe it is a distinct species, and am in the process of describing it. Burret (op. cit. p.

925) recommended using the name *Socratea altissima*.

Sincerely,

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PALM BRIEF

The American Oil Palm, *Elaeis oleifera*, in Peruvian Amazonia

According to Blank (1952), Macbride (1960), Meunier (1975) and Ool et al. (1981), the American oil palm is not known to occur in Peru. However, this species was collected on the Rio Chambira in December 1984 by A. Vasquez (n 6055, Iquitos). In March 1985, we found a population of *Elaeis oleifera* (H.B.K.) Cortes at 5 km from the Research Center of Jenaro Herrera/C1-JH (4°55'18" lat S; 73°40'36" long W), at about 200 km southwest of Iquitos on the Rio Ucayali. The 102 palms (with greater than 2 m leaf length) are in a seasonal swamp forest dominated by *Mauritia flexuosa* L.f. and *Jessenia bataua* (Mart.) Burret. Sixty-six of them have developed a procumbent stem, up to 4 m in length, and 27 were fruiting. Natural regeneration is shown by the abundant seedlings and juveniles. The

palm, locally known as "poloponta," is not used by the local people, and nobody recalls former uses. All these characteristics suggest that the species is native in this part of Peruvian Amazonia. This is not the case of most Brazilian populations with equal-aged palms and occasionally natural regeneration, which are found on good well-drained soils, often associated with deposits of broken pottery (Blank 1952, Ool et al. 1981).

LITERATURE CITED

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