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Topic: [Geonoma epetiolata, Anyone have any experience growing it?](#) < [Next Oldest](#) | [Next Newest](#) >

Post Number: 1

caleno



Group: Members
 Posts: 86
 Joined: May 2003

Posted on: Jan. 31 2006,18:54

IGNORE EDIT "QUOTE"

Hello,

Has anyone tried growing *Geonoma epetiolata*, the stained glass palm?

It has apparently been grown successfully in Hawaii at a botanical garden and by at least one palm enthusiast, but I imagine it has no chance anywhere in California or Florida outside of a greenhouse?

I heard it is not an easy palm to grow, even in tropical climates. I have searched google and different palm forums but found little culture information about this palm. Anybody have any experiences with this palm to share?

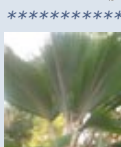
- Michael

Offline

Profile Contact wWw.

Post Number: 2

jam99



Group: Members
 Posts: 1223
 Joined: Jun. 2003

Posted on: Jan. 31 2006,21:25

IGNORE EDIT "QUOTE"

Michael,

this **beautiful** palm is a CITES-listed endangered species which once was thought to be extinct.

I wanted to get a seedling or at least a few seeds but my mission never got accomplished.

If you have more pics, please post them here.

Cheers, Jan

> nitra/bratislava, slovakia, europe

- > 48°19'N/18°06'E/231Alt.
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- > 10.5°C annual temp/586mm precip. pa/2102 sun hours pa
- > palms don't grow here, still, I like to push the limits...

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Post Number: 3

AI in Kona



Posted on: Jan. 31 2006,22:09



IGNORE

EDIT

"QUOTE"

Michael - Here's a nice Geonoma sp. growing in a private Hawaii Island garden. Could it be Geonoma epetiolata?

Attached Image



Group:
Members
Posts: 1794
Joined: Jan.
2003

Hawai`i Island (Big Island), leeward side, 19 degrees N.,
south Kona mauka, 380m (1,250ft), about 1.6 km (1-mile) upslope from ocean.
No record of a hurricane passing over island (yet!).
Summer max rainfall - variable 900-1150mm (35-45"), perfect drainage,
Nice sunsets!

Offline

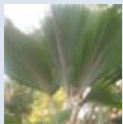


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Post Number: 4

jam99 



Group: Members
 Posts: 1223
 Joined: Jun. 2003

 Posted on: Feb. 01
 2006,00:19

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Al,

what a beauty! While the leave colours and patterns and very short petioles suggest it is a *Geonoma epetiolata* specimen, it is the leaf shape (rounded tips of the bifid leaf) that makes me uncertain. All photos of *Geonoma epetiolata* I have come across showed pointy tips. I don't have my Henderson *et al* with me right now, but here's a description provided by Michael Grayum, the curator of the Missouri Botanical Garden, who mentions the leaf blades can be **oblanceolate**:

Geonoma epetiolata H. E. Moore, *Gentes Herb.* 12: 28, fig. 2. 1980.--Stems solitary, ca. 0.5--2 m tall and 1 cm diam. Petioles beyond sheath ca. 0--3 cm. Lf.-blades simple and bifid, ca. 40--63 X 9.5--17.5 cm, narrowly obdeltate to oblanceolate, incised distally ca. 1/5--1/4 the total length, with ca. 32--40 primary lateral veins per side. Infls. infrafoliar, racemosely to subpaniculately branched; peduncle ca. 9--14 cm, with bract ca. 7.5--8.5 cm long, enclosed by prophyll and inserted near it; rachilla ca. 15--40 X 0.3--0.5 cm, ± densely pubescent with long, curled, brownish hairs (but ultimately glabrescent). Male fls. ca. 2.5--3.0 mm long. Female fls. ca. 3.0--3.5 mm long; staminodial tube crenate. Ripe frts. ca. 0.6--0.8 X 0.5 cm, finely striate, ellipsoid to subglobose, black. Wet forests, 300--900 m; Atl. slope V. Barva. Fl. 2, 4, 8--9. CR, cent. Pan. [Grayum *et al.* 5021, CR, MO.]

The combination of solitary stems and infrafoliar, spicate infls. immediately distinguishes this rare sp. from all other Costa Rican congeners. As if that were not enough, living plants are conspicuous in having their lf.-blades handsomely mottled abaxially with purplish or reddish. *Geonoma epetiolata* is additionally distinctive in its obsolete petioles and relatively short peduncles.

Because of its uniquely patterned foliage, *Geonoma epetiolata* has received some attention as a horticultural subject.

Thank you Michael and Al for posting those photos.

Cheers, Jan

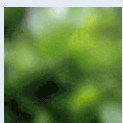
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Post Number: 5

PalmsZA 



Group: Members
 Posts: 683

 Posted on: Feb. 01
 2006,01:02

  IGNORE EDIT "QUOTE"

Hi Guys

Lovely little palm, very much like a Pinanga sp.

I have nothing to offer on this species culture but in Jams info. (thanks Jan) it grows upto 900m (-3000 feet)ASL. I think it may well be worth a try in a warm frost-free climate like mine.

Joined: Apr. 2004

Jan - keep searching!

Cheers

Dennis

 Durban
 South Africa
 30 South
 Lowest temp ever : 3c
 Highest temp ever : 42c
 Annual average 21.5c
 Sub-tropical climate
 Great palms all around

 Offline

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Post Number: 6

jam99 



Posted on: Feb. 01 2006,02:03



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[EDIT](#)

["QUOTE"](#)



Big D,

yes, it grows in a premontane rain forest of Costa Rica. Check out this picture by Bill Cheliak. Ain't it gorgeous? *Bloody* good looking!

Group:
 Members
 Posts: 1223
 Joined: Jun.
 2003



Cheers, Jan

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Post Number: 7

jam99



Group: Members
Posts: 1223
Joined: Jun. 2003

IB Posted on: Feb. 01
2006,02:15

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btw, *petiolata* means "without petioles"

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Post Number: 8

Darold Petty



Group: Members
Posts: 67
Joined: Jun. 2004

IB Posted on: Feb. 01
2006,04:15

[↑](#) [↓](#) [IGNORE](#) [EDIT](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

I had 20 seeds in 2001. The seeds were fully ripe on the plants but none germinated back home in my greenhouse. The wild plants are truly as beautiful as the posted photos.

San Francisco, California

Offline

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Post Number: 9

jam99



Group: Members
Posts: 1223
Joined: Jun. 2003

IB Posted on: Feb. 01
2006,04:58

[↑](#) [↓](#) [IGNORE](#) [EDIT](#) ["QUOTE"](#)

Darold,

as some members of this board had a chance to find out, many members of the *Geonoma* genus are very tricky regarding germination and keeping small seedlings alive (Well, big J knows how to get round it).

Al,

I forwarded your photo to Dr. Grayum and he replied that...

"Although the coloration of the leaves is very similar, I don't think it is *G. epetiolata*. First, as we've discussed, the leaf tips appear rounded, something I've never seen in any *Geonoma*. Second, the leaf shape is entirely wrong. The leaves of *G. epetiolata* are proportionately much longer and narrower---at least 3.5 to 4 times as long as broad."

Maybe big D wasn't far off saying "very much like a *Pinanga* sp."

Edited by jam99 on Feb. 01 2006,04:58

-
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Post Number: 10

stone jaguar 



Group: Members
Posts: 16
Joined: Oct. 2004

 **Posted on:** Feb. 01
2006,07:04

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Greetings:

An interesting exchange on a species that is of great interest to connoisseurs. Several clarifications may be in order.

There is quite a bit of nonsense and legend published on the web by CRican eco-lodges and their ilk regarding the "history", distribution and current status of this palm. While still possible, I have not been able to verify any claims that it was ever cultivated in european glasshouses during the late nineteenth century, then "lost" (apparently until Moore's description in 1980, based on Robert Dressler's collection of the type material in the early '70s). It certainly tests the limits of credibility that such a showy small palm should have not been described in the early 1900's, if there was material, even lacking locality data, available to british botanists. As many know, it was common practice to publish binomials based on unicates from cultivation with questionable/no collection data.

The small populations of *Geonoma epetiolata* that occur in and adjacent to the *Zona Protectora* appear to be western outliers, and the main population appears to be scattered at lower middle elevations much further to the east.

With regards to its present conservation status - current CITES lists for Apps 1, 2 and 3:
<http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.shtml> - no *Geonoma*, as far as I can see. Please be careful what you wish for, boys and girls!

This palm occurs in several private and national protected areas in both of its range states. I would consider it to be relatively common at two localities that I am familiar with, where it occurs in sympatry with several other palmlets of commercial interest (*Chamaedorea amabilis*, *C. sullivaniorum*, *C. correae*, etc.). Clearly, based on their relative abundance, these areas have not been visited by "enthusiasts", yet.

While I am extremely reluctant to contradict any statement made by Michael Grayum regarding regional flora,

in my opinion, all these images are of *G. epetiolata*. These palmlets vary quite a bit, both from individual to individual, and in response to the light levels under which it is cultivated. Very tall specimens (>1.60 m), tend to have very narrow, triangular leaves, similar to some other dwarf, simple-leaf members of the genus (such as *G. divisa*).

I am aware of plants that are successfully grown in three Central American countries, Hawaii and Oz. Based on personal observation, seeds mature very late in the season and are subject to heavy predation by small rodents and weevils. Fruit colors fully on the infructs. quite some time before the seed is actually mature.

Anyone interested in photos of this palm in nature can pm me, thence post them here later. Can't be bothered with photobucket, I'm afraid.

Ciao,

SJ

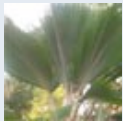
Edited by stone jaguar on Feb. 01 2006,07:09

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Post Number: 11

jam99 



Group: Members
Posts: 1223
Joined: Jun. 2003

 **Posted on:** Feb. 01
2006,22:33

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Dear Jay,

you are right, the species is not included in any of the CITES appendices (foolish of me relying on an unverified source before checking it myself at cites.org).

Regarding the leaf shape, I am going to paraphrase (don't have the book w/me) Henderson *et al.* 1995: "...*The apex strongly pointed...*". If I remember correctly, this part of the description is in italics meaning the feature is characteristic for the species. Having written that, I am aware you have encountered many specimens in the wild and I consider your statement as valid.

Thank you for the additional info regarding the species' history and distribution.

BTW, Dr. Quesado provided me with his interesting paper:

Martén, S. & Quesada, M. Phenology, Sexual Expression, and Reproductive Success of the Rare Neotropical Palm *Geonoma epetiolata*. *Biotropica* 33[4], 596-605. 2000.

Those of you who are interested, PM me your e-mail address. I'll be happy to share it with you. Michael (Caleno), you may find it very interesting regarding your future plans we discussed last year.

Cheers, Jan

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Post Number: 12

chamfreak



*If you make a cow laugh, will
milk come out its nose?*



Group: Members
Posts: 872
Joined: Jun. 2004

Posted on: Feb. 02
2006,03:17

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Michael, Is that Geonoma for me

Quote

as some members of this board had a chance to find out, many members of the Geonoma genus are very tricky regarding germination and keeping small seedlings alive (Well, big J knows how to get round it).

Jan,

As you know, a few of us recieved some Geonoma seeds and not knowing who recieved what I will be a little discrete.

I recieved 3 Geonoma spp. One pictured below were the easiest to germinate and are proving easy to grow. Of the other 2 spp. I lost one spp. completly (seeds rotted) and the other spp. has not germinated at all. All 3 spp. are/were germinated in the same medium using the same germinating method.



SJ..... Too hard to resist posting ?

Right now I'm having amnesia and déjà vu at the same time.. I think I've forgotten this before...



40km south of Perth, West Aust.

Chamaedorea website

www.kamipalms.com

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Post Number: 13

caleno

Posted on: Feb. 02
 2006,04:21

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["QUOTE"](#)



Group: Members
 Posts: 86
 Joined: May 2003

Ok here's a little treat, some habitat pictures of *G. epetiolata*.

Thanks for the article Jam, I am in Costa Rica and had a chance to read Silvana's original thesis (though not the published version with Quesada). I also read another thesis by a Miami student. The basic problem with this palm is that it appears to be a very slow grower and reproducer in nature. It takes about 10 years in habitat to reach maturity and only about 3% of flowers actually mature into fruits. Of these fruits, only a small fraction with germinate in forest soil (insects, fungi, etc..). If you have an electronic version of the Biotropica paper, please forward it to me at caleno"AT"collectorseeds.com .

Stone Jaguar:

I also found a lot of nonsense about this palm on the web.

One, that it was now extinct in Panama. I have heard from a couple people that this is not the case, although it seems to have been overcollected. One person I talked to told me he did not see any in Panama over 1m tall, whereas in Costa Rica I saw some with over 2.5meters of trunk!

Two: That 96% of the world's population is contained in this one private reserve in CR. I am not sure if the populations you mention outside the "Zona Protectora" are in Costa Rica or Panama, but if it is the former, then what they are saying is innacurate.

Three: That it is CITES listed.

SJ: I was wondering if you have seen this palm in habitat in both Panama and Costa Rica; and if so, could you compare their conservation status.

I have been wondering whether it would be very difficult to hand pollinate this palm. Apparently each inflorescence only produces an average of 3 male flowers per day for several months, then it produces female flowers for three weeks. This means pollen collection in this palm is probably not easy, and to fully pollinate an inflorescence would take several weeks of monitoring and visiting them. The good news is they produce infructescences year round in the tropics.

SJ: Please email me habitat pictures to the address I posted above, I would love to add them to my palm habitat photogallery and link them to this message.

regards,
 Michael

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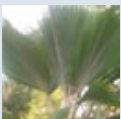
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Post Number: 14

jam99

Posted on: Feb. 02
 2006,04:37

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Group: Members
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Post Number: 15

jam99 

 **Posted on:** Feb. 02
2006,21:30

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Here are some photos of *G. epetiolata* in habitat kindly provided by Jay (stone jaguar). Personally I think they are breath taking. Enjoy.

Group: Members
Posts: 1223
Joined: Jun. 2003

Cheers, Jan


-
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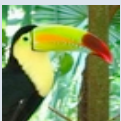
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Post Number: 16

Steve in Brookings 

 **Posted on:** Mar. 30
2006,21:01

[↑](#) [↓](#) [IGNORE](#) [EDIT](#) ["QUOTE"](#)



Brookings, OR, just over the northern border from the Golden State. Cool temperate climate, 80" of rain a year with 60% of winters frost-free. USDA Zone 9b, Sunset Zone 17.

SMB


Group: Members
Posts: 268
Joined: Jan. 2003

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Post Number: 17

Jeff Searle 

 Posted on: Jun. 15 2006,18:11

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Group: Members
Posts: 120
Joined: Jun. 2006

I have traveled to Costa Rica five times during the ninety`s and on one trip, I made a two day trip to a remote lodge that took many hours to get to. It was on a trailer pulled by a slow moving tractor. This area had maybe eight to ten species of palms, but what made it unique was, the un-disturbed population of this beautiful Geonoma. These piutures are with out doubt, the true G. epetiolata. There`s nothing else that compares to this beautiful palm. When one has good fortune to be able to see this in habitat, it`s a memory that you don`t forget!

Searle Brothers Nursery &
The Rainforest Collection

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16 replies since Jan. 31 2006,18:54

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