PALMS Mera: Photo Feature Vol. 54(1) 2010

Photo Feature





These photos of the seldom-seen *Reinhardtia paiewonskiana* Read, Zanoni & M.M. Mejía were provided by IPS member Leonel Mera, of the Dominican Republic. Described in 1987, this species is the only member of the genus *Reinhardtia* to occur in the Caribbean. Unlike the more familiar species of *Reinhardita*, this species is a large, canopy palm with regularly pinnate leaves. Its leaflets lack the "windows" seen in the small species, such as *R. gracilis*. It grows in just a handful of localities in the southern Dominican Republic in the Sierra de Bahoruco at 800–1200 m elevation. The flowers have many stamens. The fruits, green and immature in this photograph, resemble little coconuts and account for the local name of this species, "coquito."