

trapolation to *Ammandra*. These genera appear to be unique among the palms in this respect.

UHL, N. W. AND H. E. MOORE, JR.
1978. The structure of the acervulus, the flower cluster of chamaedo-

roid palms. *Amer. J. Bot.* 65: 197-204, figs. 1-16.

The anatomy and development of the distinctive flower cluster known as an acervulus demonstrates that it is basically a cincinnus.

H. E. MOORE, JR.

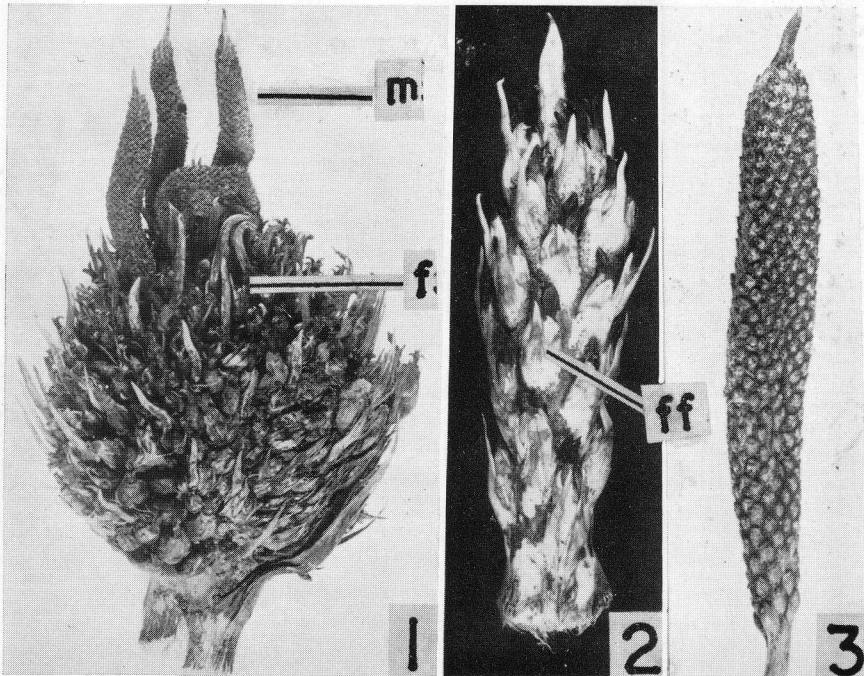
NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

An Unusual Inflorescence in *Elaeis guineensis*

The African oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq., is noteworthy for the occasional development of inflorescences that are intermediate in some degree between the usual staminate or pistillate inflorescences. One such was noted on a plant growing in the Botanical Garden of the Botany Department, University of Poona, Poona, India (Fig. 1). It has usual pistillate rachillae 4 inches

long, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, with 8-14 flowers on each (Figs. 1, 2) throughout the inflorescence, but near the tip had several rachillae $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter that bore only staminate flowers (Fig. 3). Similar abnormal inflorescences were also observed on other plants of the species. Such an unusual situation apparently has not previously been illustrated in *PRINCIPES*.

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1-3. *Elaeis guineensis*. 1. An abnormal inflorescence bearing pistillate rachillae (f) in the basal part and four staminate rachillae (m) in the upper part. 2. A rachilla with pistillate flowers (ff). 3. A rachilla with staminate flowers.