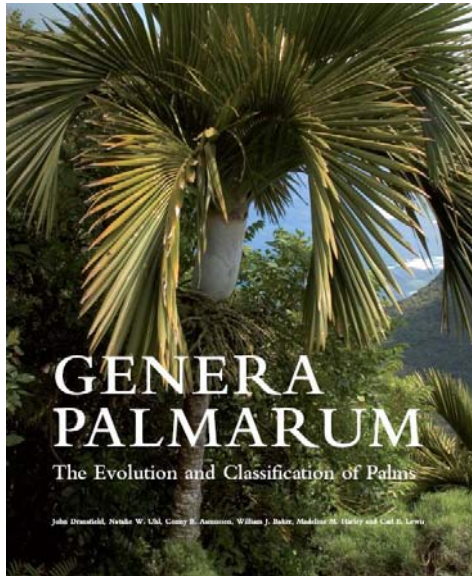


ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET



Title:	Genera Palmarum. The Evolution and Classification of Palms
Authors:	John Dransfield, Natalie W. Uhl, Conny B. Asmussen, William J. Baker, Madeline M. Harley and Carl E. Lewis
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Market / Audience

Botanists, plant scientists, field workers, conservationists, horticulturists and undergraduate/graduate/postgraduate students of botany and plant science. Palm enthusiasts worldwide.

Key Selling Points

- The definitive survey of the palm family worldwide, providing a new classification based on the latest phylogenetic research.
- Written by a team of six leading palm specialists.
- All 183 genera of palms described in detail.
- Extensively illustrated with colour photographs, diagnostic plates, maps and scanning electron micrographs.
- Nine introductory chapters on the biology, evolution and classification of palms.
- Detailed illustrated glossary of specialist terms used in the text.

Description

Palms are the symbols of the tropics. They are the most distinctive of all flowering plants, and yet their diversity of form and ecology is astounding. A family of superlatives, the palms boast the longest leaf, the longest unbranched aerial stems, the biggest inflorescences and the largest seed in the plant kingdom. They play a vital role in economies throughout the world, supplying major traded commodities such as oils, starch and sugar, and are significant in the global horticultural industry. They also provide countless resources to local communities at the subsistence level.

The scientific interest of the family encompasses many aspects, including their copious fossil record, evolution, ecology and natural history. Current research on the relationships among palms has culminated in a new phylogenetic classification of the family, which forms the basis of *Genera Palmarum: evolution and classification of the palms*. This encyclopaedic account of the family provides a new standard reference to underpin all palm studies.

Author information

John Dransfield PhD was head of palm research at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew until his retirement in 2005, and has since continued to work as an honorary research fellow. He is author of over 250 scientific papers and several books on palms, including (with Natalie Uhl) the first edition of *Genera Palmarum*, published in 1987.

Natalie W. Uhl PhD spent 17 years working in collaboration with Professor Harold E. Moore, Jr. towards a *Genera Palmarum* as envisioned by Liberty Hyde Bailey. She continued this work with John Dransfield after Harold Moore's death in 1980. Her work on palm systematics focuses on phylogenetics and on floral anatomy and development.

Conny B. Asmussen-Lange PhD is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Her current research centres on the molecular phylogenetics of palms and legumes. She teaches plant systematics and is the curator of plants at the herbarium of the Faculty of Life Sciences (University of Copenhagen).

William J. Baker PhD is head of palm research at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and is an authority on the systematics, evolution and biogeography of the palm family. He has conducted a wide range of collaborative research focused on the palms of Papuasia and the application of DNA data to systematic and evolutionary questions in palms.

Madeline M. Harley PhD enjoyed a long career at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She completed her doctorate on palm pollen and the fossil record at the University of East London in 1996. Now retired, but continuing as an Honorary Research Fellow, her work uses pollen morphology to understand the relationships and evolution of flowering plants.

Carl E. Lewis PhD is a researcher in palm systematics and conservation at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. His interests lie in the molecular systematics, evolution, and biogeography of palms, particularly those of the Caribbean. He is the author of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's innovative on-line Guide to Palms.

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