

Why Collect Palms?

- Palm pests are coming soon
- Palms are part of Florida landscapes
- Palms are important to green industries

Why *Not* Collect Palms?

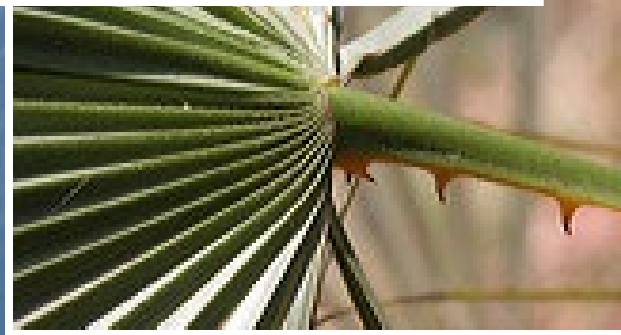
- Many have spines or prickles
- Stinging insects make nests in them
- They can be BIG, ***very* big**

What about using photos?



So, which palms do you see here?

Photographs can be very helpful—if you focus on the right parts



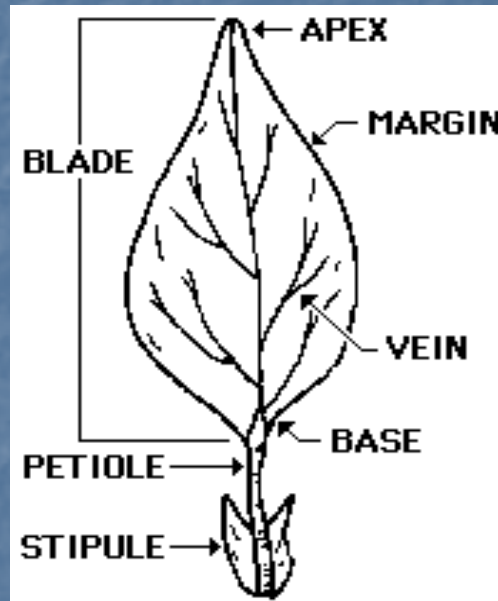
Acoelerrhaphis wrightii



Chamaerops humilis

Just to review those parts...

Remember the “regular” plant leaf

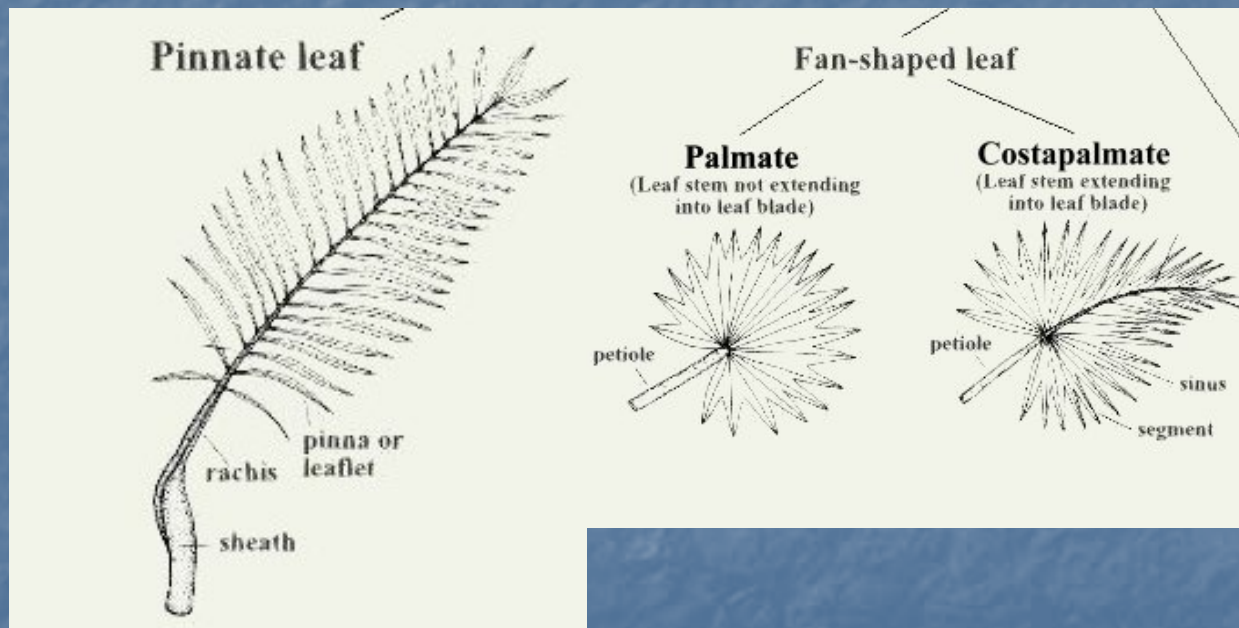


Not All Palm Leaves Have the Same Parts

Pinnate

Palmate

Costapalmate



<http://www.plantapalm.com/vpe/palmkey/>

Parts of a Palm Leaf

- Sheath -- attachment of petiole to the stem or trunk
- Hastula -- attachment of petiole to palmate leaf blade
- Petiole -- leaf stem or stalk
- Rachis -- extension of the petiole on pinnate leaves
- Blade -- broader section (leafy)
- Leaflets -- divisions of a compound leaf
- Spine -- protruding, thorn-like protective organ: "armature"
- Rein -- threadlike tissue connecting the leaf tips of developing pinnate leaves

What makes a good photographic collection?

- Entire palm with surroundings (head to toe shot)
- Clear view of how leaves hang
- Stem showing any crown shaft, leaf scars, persistent leaf bases
- Any spines or thorns or swelling on the stem
- If you see roots, a root photo
- Close up of flowers, fruits, and patterns on stem
- Whole leaves before pieces are cut for mailing

Distinctive fibers and leaf sheath



Aphandra natalia

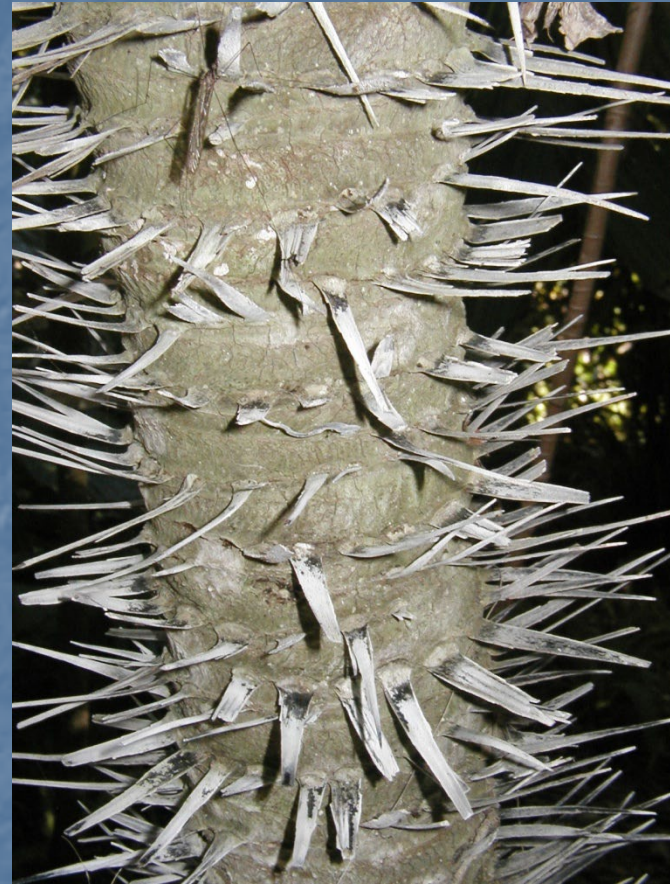


Hastula from above and below

Palm Stems Can Be Very Distinctive



Coccothrinax crinita



Astrocaryum mexicanum

Photographic collections need notes, too

What to include?

- Habitat type: swamp/scrub--in a nursery, any label information
- Does the palm have a single stem or a cluster?
- Color of stem and any fibers (photos *do* lie)
- Common or Latin name

Collecting Live Palms

Goal:

Provide as much
information as possible
with as little material as
possible



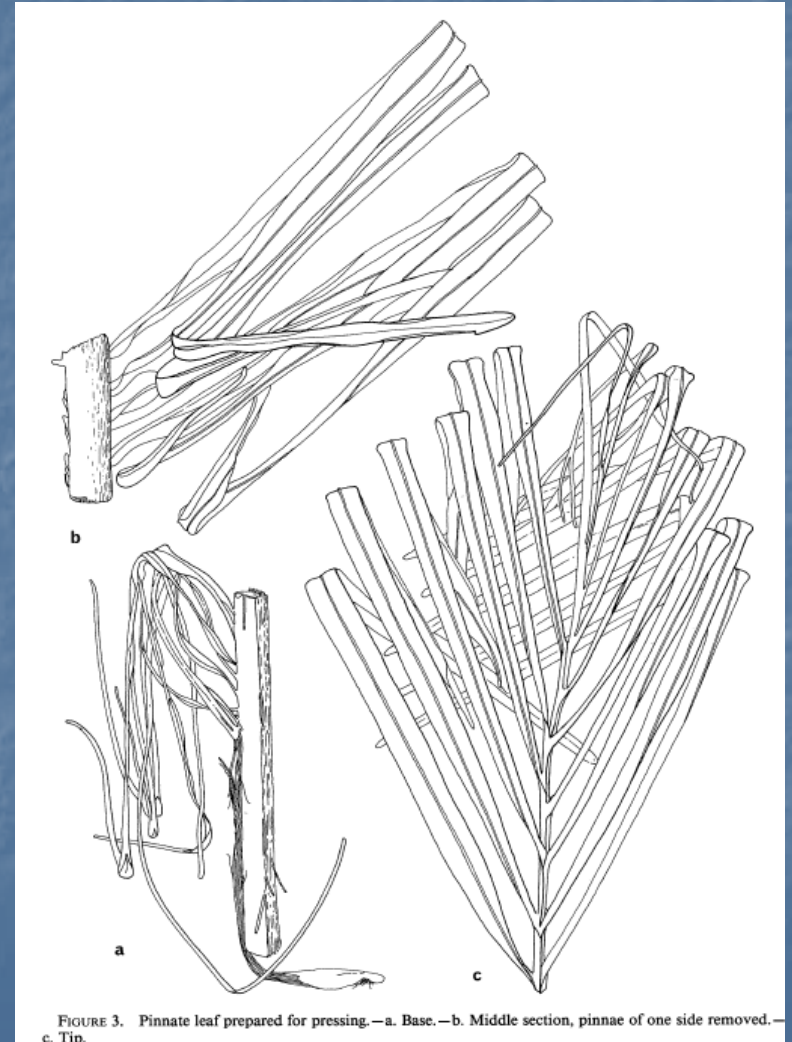
Note: It helps to measure the whole
leaf when you send in parts of a leaf.

Pinnate leaf (like a feather)

Ideally--

If small, the **whole** thing...otherwise,

- Fibers (if any) from leaf sheath
- Base of petiole with any spines
- Do spines or fibers change along petiole? If so, include sections with each variation.
- First set of leaflets and any reins with the uppermost section of the petiole
- A portion from the middle of the blade--You can cut the leaflets on one side of the rachis.
- Leaf tip with several leaflets



Palmate leaf (like a fan or hand)

Ideally --

If small, the **whole** thing... otherwise

- Base of petiole with any spines
- Do spines or fibers change along petiole? If so, include sections with each variation.
- Hastula with the the petiole attached to the base of the blade
- A portion from the middle of the blade

You can fold the leaf blade.

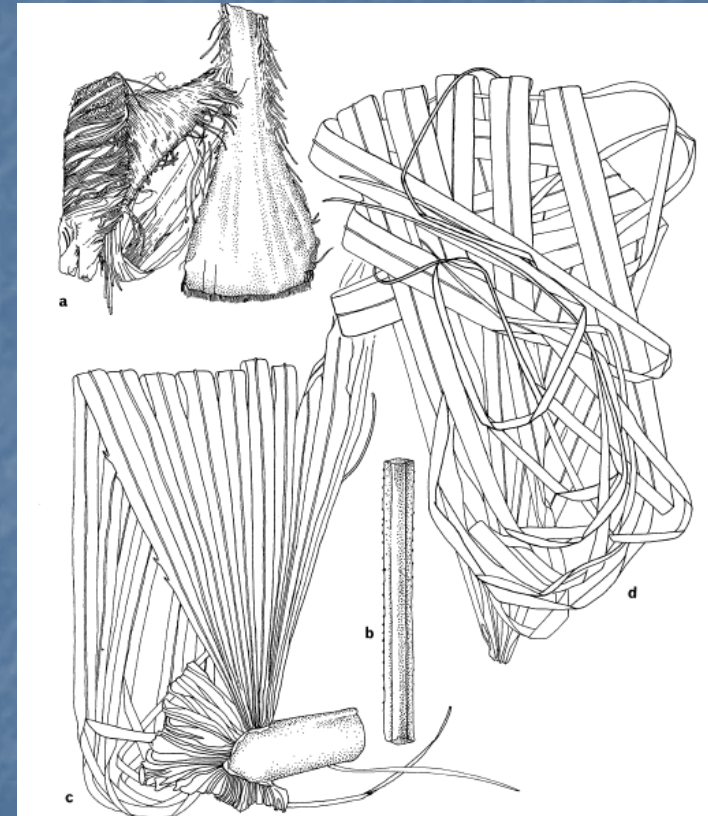


FIGURE 4. Palmate leaf prepared for pressing.—a. Sheath.—b. Petiole section.—c. Base of blade with all segments removed except at one side.—d. Middle portion of blade.

Inflorescence / Infructescence

- Send a photo of the entire structure and any protective bracts
- Send the whole structure, if possible (folding is ok)--even an old one can show the branching pattern.

Note flower or fruit

- color
- aroma
- position in relation to leaves

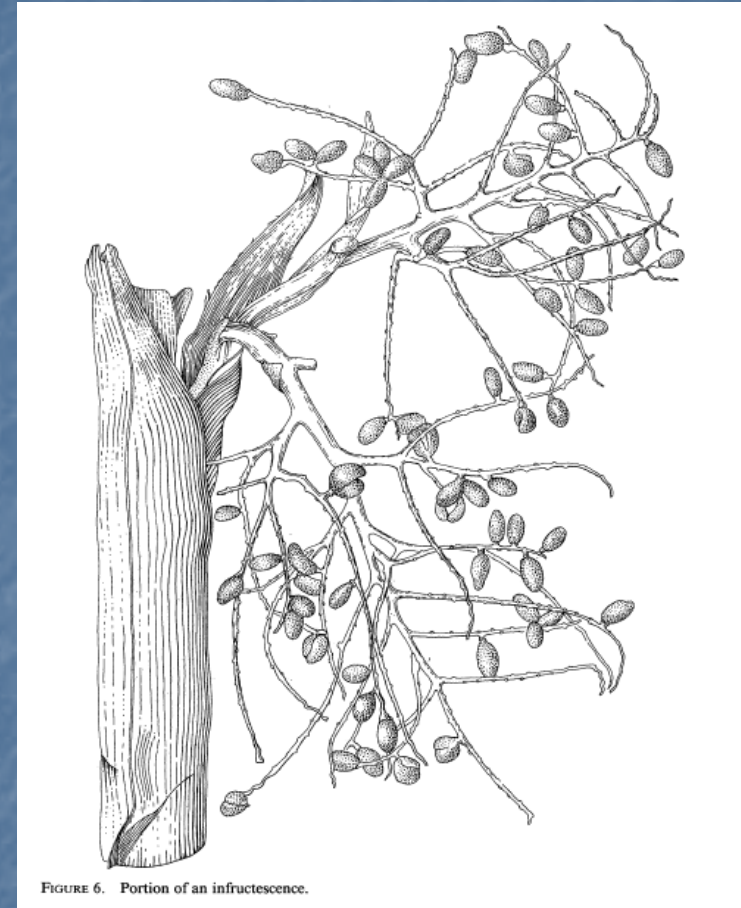


FIGURE 6. Portion of an infructescence.

Inflorescences below leaves or within leaves



Now for an example...

What could tell us this is a coconut palm?



These characteristics

Stem: swollen at base;
no crown shaft

Leaves: up to 6m (18 ft)

Leaf sheath: fiber
matting, woven (cloth-
like), light brown

Petiole: channeled
above, convex below

Leaflets: in a single
plane; midrib prominent
above; brown hairs below

Fruit: coconut, sampled
as piña colada



Documented by photographs &
leaf segments with notes