



## New species of *Areca*, *Pinanga*, and *Licuala* (Arecaceae) from Vietnam

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### Abstract

Three new species of palms (Arecaceae) in the genera *Areca* (*A. songthanhensis*), *Licuala* (*L. dakrongensis*) and *Pinanga* (*P. nuichuensis*) from Vietnam are described and illustrated. Comparisons are made and differences with similar species are pointed out.

**Key words:** Indochina, Palmae, palms, southeast Asia, taxonomy

### Introduction

The diversity of the flora of Vietnam has only recently become better known (Regalado *et al.* 2003). The palm flora is no exception to this and it is only in the last few years that its diversity has been fully appreciated. Henderson (2009) recognized 97 species from the country, 33 of which had been described within the last decade. Recent field work has resulted in the discovery of several species unknown to science. Here we describe three new species in the genera *Areca*, *Licuala*, and *Pinanga*.

### *Areca* Linnaeus (1753: 1189)

Three species of *Areca* are currently recognized from Vietnam (Henderson 2009): *Areca triandra* Roxburgh in Buchanan-Hamilton (1826: 310), *A. laosensis* Beccari (1910: 191), and the cultivated *A. catechu* Linnaeus (1753: 1189). *Areca triandra* is widespread in Vietnam and elsewhere in southeast Asia. It is morphologically variable and several forms, including a rheophytic one, are known. *Areca laosensis* is an enigmatic species, known from only two specimens – one from Laos (collected in 1877) and one from southern Vietnam (collected in 1923). Recently we have collected a fourth species in central Vietnam, which we describe here.

### *Areca songthanhensis* A.J.Hend., N.K.Ban & B.V.Thanh, *sp. nov.* (Plate 1)

*A Areca triandra caulibus solitariis foliis paucijugis et triadibus dispositis differt.*

Type:—VIETNAM. Quang Nam Province: Nam Giang District, Ta Bhing commune, Song Thanh Nature Reserve, road 14 D to Laos, 15°39'N, 107°36'E, 412 m. 12 March 2009, A. Henderson, B.V. Thanh, N.T. Vu & C.Tuo 3569 (holotype: HN!, isotypes: K! NY!).