A NEW SPECIES OF CERATOZAMIA (CYCADACEAE) FROM SAN LUIS POTOSI

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In early 1960, Luciano E. Guerra, a commercial plant collector from Mission, Texas imported one of the most unusual American cycads. Guerra had been an avid cycad collector for many years and immediately recognized that this species of Ceratozamia (Cycadaceae) was unlike any he had seen before. This cycad is unquestionably new to science and has remained undescribed since its first introduction eighteen years ago.

Ceratozamia hildae Landry and Wilson, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Truncus ovoideus vel subcylindricus, 9–15 cm altus, 8–12 cm diametro; folia 5–20, stipulata 1–1.5 m longa, basi tomentosa; petiolus armatus; foliola lanceolata vel recurvata, fasciculata in rachi, 7–22 cm longa, 1–5 cm lata, 8–30-nervia, apice acuta; strobilus δ pedunculatus fulvus, elongatus, subcylindricus, apice mucronatus, 18–25 cm longa, ca 3 cm diam.; pedunculus inermis, 3.5 cm longus, basi tomentosus; microsporophylla bicornuata, cornubus 3.0 mm longis; strobilus 9 pedunculatus, olivaceus, subcylindricus, mucronatus, 10–14 cm longus, 3–5 cm diam.; pedunculus inermis 6–9 cm longus, 0.7 cm diam., basi tomentosus; megasporophylla peltata vel transverse hexagona ca 15 mm alta, 10–15 lata, cornubus magnis bicornuta cristaque prominente inter cornua, praedita.

Trunk ovoid to subcylindric; leaves stipulate, tomentose at base; petiole armed with spines; leaflets lanceolate to recurved, clustered along rachis, acute at apex; strobilis δ tawny-brown, mucronate; peduncle unarmed, tomentose at base; microsporophylls with two horns 3.0 mm long; strobilus 9 olive-green, mucronate; peduncle unarmed, tomentose at base; megasporophylls with two large horns and a prominent ridge between them.

TYPE: The type specimens were obtained from plants grown outdoors at the home of Prof. Walter J. Harman, 5988 South Pollard Parkway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 6 Jun 1976, Garrie Landry 76521 (HOLOTYPE: GH; ISOTYPES: MEXU, MICH, US, NY, FTG, LSU). These plants were obtained originally from Larry Bussell, Valrico, Florida, who collected them several km N of Xitilla, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Additional specimen examined: Landry 75495 ♀ (GH).

From its initial introduction into cultivation, C. hildae has been known in the horticultural trade as C. "hilda." Guerra chose the name for his daughter, now Hilda Guerra Walker. In honor of Guerra’s lifelong interest in cycads we have retained the name he selected.

Ceratozamia hildae has been found in only one area in southern San Luis Potosi. Located several kilometers north of the town of Xitilla where it inhabits dense tropical rainforest of the Sierra Madre Oriental at an elevation of 3600 km to 4500 km. The slopes are frequently steep with much outcropping of limestone.

Fig. 1. *Ceratozamia hildae* Landry & Wilson. A, B. Megasporophyll, ventral view and distal view. C, D. Microsporophyll, ventral view and lateral view. E. Portion of leaf showing position and clustering of leaflets.