

ARECACEAE PALM FAMILY

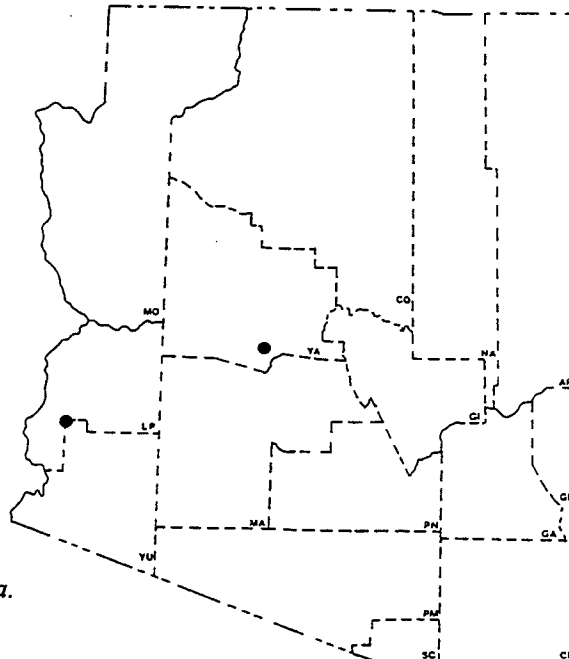
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Trees or shrubs usually with unbranched smooth or spiny stems bearing an apical tuft of leaves. LEAVES large, petiolate, the blade pinnately or palmately cleft or compound. INFLORESCENCES large, usually axillary panicles. FLOWERS small, numerous, perfect or imperfect, the plants monoecious or dioecious; sepals 3; petals 3, larger than the sepals; stamens usually 6; pistil 3(-10)-carpelled, the ovary superior with 1 ovule in each locule. FRUITS fleshy or dry and fibrous, berries or drupes, with 1 locule fertile. SEEDS with abundant oily endosperm. Ca. 212 genera; 2780 spp.; chiefly of tropical and subtropical regions. Includes *Phoenix dactylifera* L., the date palm and *Cocos nucifera* L., the coconut palm.

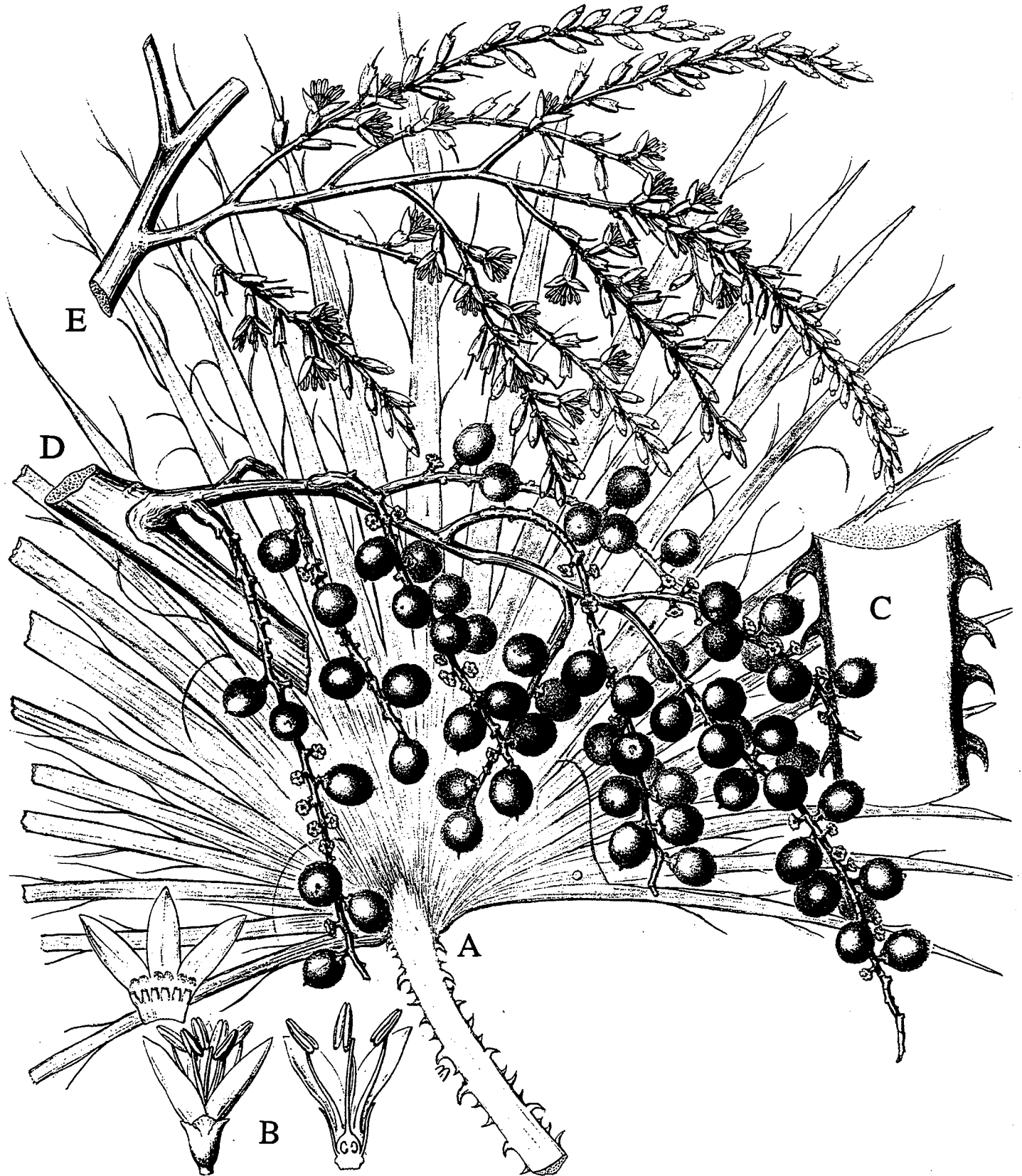
Washingtonia H. Wendl. Fan Palm

Unbranched trees to 25 m tall, usually with persistent dead drooping leaves forming a skirt. LEAVES fan-shaped to 1 m broad, palmately dissected into 40-60 segments, their margins commonly with slender filaments; petioles to 1 m long, flattened, projecting into the blade as a winged arrowhead point, the margins usually spine-bearing. INFLORESCENCES 3-4 m long. FLOWERS numerous, perfect, white, 7-10 mm long; calyx lobes erect; corolla lobes reflexed; stamens 6; pistil 3-loculed. FRUITS dry, hard, ellipsoid drupes, 5-10 mm long. --2 spp.; AZ, CA; nw Mex. (for *G. Washington*). Bailey, L. H. 1936. *Gentes Herbarum* 4:53-82.

Washingtonia filifera (Linden) H. Wendl. (with filaments or threads). --Trees to 15 m tall, the trunk to 1 m in diam. LEAVES with filiferous segments; petioles bearing marginal curved or hooked spines, these prominent at the base but reduced apically. FLOWERS 8-10 mm long. FRUITS 7-10 mm long. Restricted to springs and seep areas of canyons: Kofa Mts., Yuma Co., and Alkali Springs, Yavapai Co.; 650-850 m (2000-2800 ft); Jun; CA; Baja C., Son., Mex. This species is widely planted from CA to FL as an ornamental tree.



Areaceae Fig 1. Distribution of *Washingtonia filifera*.



Arecaeae Fig. 2. *Washingtonia filifera*, reproduced from C. S. Sargent (1890-1902), *Silva of North America*. A, leaf; B, flowers; C, portion of petiole; D, infructescence; E, inflorescence.