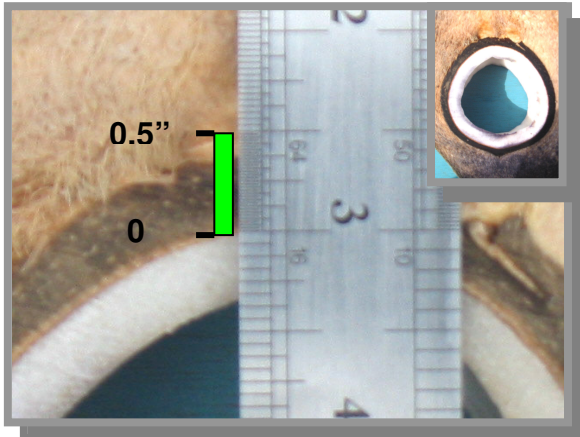


A New Coconut Accession: TUTUPAEN TALL (TTPT)

Collection Site: Maitum, Sarangani Province

Conservation Site: PCA Zamboanga Research Center, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(Collected on August 2003)

Botanical and Morphological Outstanding Characteristics: **Description, and**



Tutupaen is so-called after a game “*tupa*” (to hit, smash or strike), which is very popular in Pangasinan and the Northern provinces of Luzon. Apparently, when a group of Ilocanos migrated to Mindanao, in 1978.

Some of them including the father of Mr. Roy Cabrido of Barangay Poblacion, Maitum, Sarangani Province, brought a seedling of Tutupaen and planted it near his house. It grew into a powerful palm as it was planted near the beach of Maitum.

The game¹ is such that husked nuts (without water) of a pair of players are matched. Once there is a match, one of the players rolls down his nut on the court, usually a clean part of the yard, and while rolling the other player strikes it with his own nut. This is done alternately until one of the nuts breaks. Whichever stays unbroken is proclaimed the winner by a selected judge.



A Tutupaen palm looks like the typical coconut. It is late bearing, tall, cross-pollinated and either “boled” or slightly tapering at the base. The petioles and the young nuts are either lettuce green or orange of various intensities. Mature nuts vary in size (small, big, ordinary) and shape (round and oblong).

Being planted solitary and used in the game, Tutupaen palms are logically named after their owners. Depending on their performance, the best palms are noted and nuts are therefore priced higher. A Tutupaen nut can only be confirmed by opening the nut to see the unique thick shell, i.e. 0.4” or more.

¹ Excerpts from the Thesis of Dr. Juan T. Carlos, Jr., 1963