



### Photo Feature – *Nypa fruticans*

This palm, the lone species from an ancient lineage, demonstrates its unique reproductive characters. The showy catkin-like male inflorescence and the clustering carpels of the female flower produce a large, tightly packed head of fruit reminiscent of a satin-finished wood carving. A mangrove palm that prefers warm, humid tropical regions, *Nypa* relies on saltwater not only to provide its heavy moisture requirements but to distribute its floating seeds. Although the *Nypa* reproduces prolifically in Asia and the western Pacific, Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, Florida, is the only place in the USA reporting successful propagation of the plant.

MARY ANDREWS  
 Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami , Florida, USA