

A.S.G.A.P. CYCAD, ZAMIAD AND PALM STUDY GROUP
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Leader: L.P. Butt - 07 - 8483515
 Asst: Brian Runnegar - 07 - 2861164

Further Observations on Macrozamia section Parazamia lomandrioides.,
 D. Jones S.P. November 1991 by L.P. Butt.

Of all the section parazamia occurring here in Queensland this taxon has captured my interest and imagination more than any other. Certainly I have visited its areas and studied its growth pattern many times. The first visit around 1975 coincided with a field trip of the very active, but recently formed P.A.C.S.O.A.? NOW OPERATING AS THE S.E. QLD. group of that society. A very keen cane farmer, coniplant collector had invited us up for field day weekend at his property on the steep banks of the Elliott River to see and study the zamiad, already identified as a local form of the type Pauli-guilielmi which generally is found in the Tin Can Bay and Cooleela National Park areas with some stands almost to the Gympie districts.

Plants examined on the first day were on steep sloping ground within 50 metres of the river, with more visible on a few islands out from the banks. Appearing mostly as small bushes of spiralling grass with definite similarities to the true P. Pauli-guilielmi. The difference being the very much wider and thicker pinnules on the Elliott River plants and the toothed apex of many mature pinnules. These minute teeth occurring also on the acroscopic side of pinnae near the top. The fact that many plants of this taxon I have grown since that period do not follow this pattern and have a complete entire edge. This could of course have something to do with their gender, as at all my visits to their areas, I have not seen them coning. The entire rhachis versions look even more like lomandra than the toothed versions.

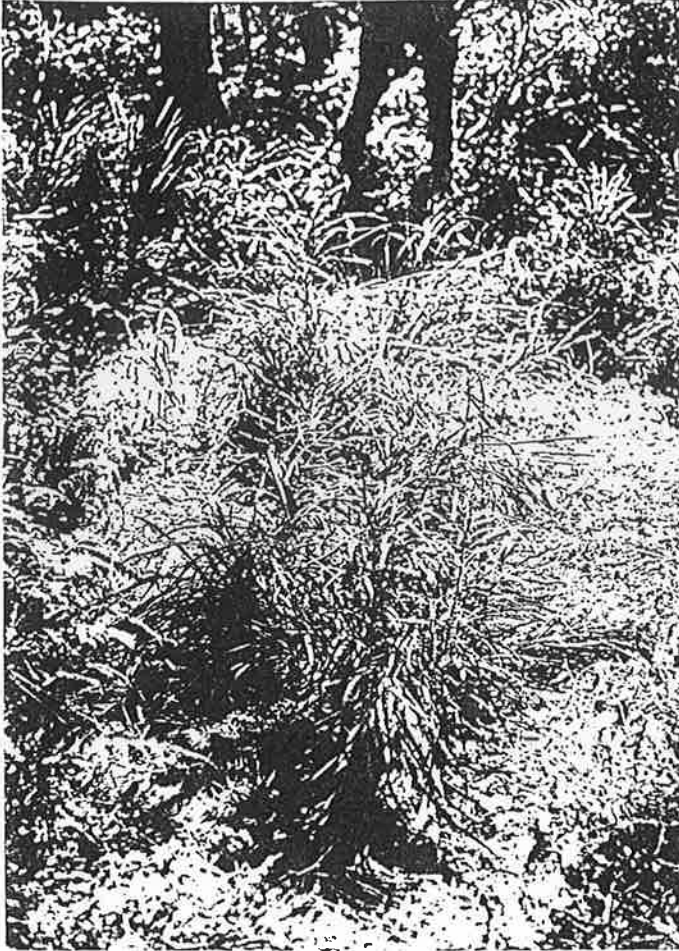
The next morning our party was taken to a local farm a few kilometres inland along the Elliott River and there midst paddocks of tomato and zuchini plantings, in a recently ploughed field we saw evidence of clumps of freshly emerging zamiad fronds pushing through the broken earth. As this field was needed for a coming crop we were invited to dig and remove any of this zamiad we needed.

Most specimens dug and rescued had tubers intact some few had two to three heads and some were merely side slices from a tuber, lying horizontally and growing new fronds along the slice, I had not seen this occurrence in the zamiads before this, but it serves to prove the hardiness of at least this species.

Another visit to the general area approximately four years later and a very large colony pea-green in colour were found growing under light small melaleuca trees in a heavily wooded field surrounded by many native shrubs. These plants showed no sign of any of the usual field eradication burnings and on average had three to four fronds which as usual had the typical rhachis twisting common in the *P. pauli-guilielmi* group, the pinnules thus appearing to be on all areas of the rhachis, a condition also typical of the Tin Can Bay species.

The large, (to football) size subterranean caudex in all observed very mature plants and the other characteristics such as the GEOLOGICAL terrain of all species. I have examined points to a closer affinity with the latter species rather than the botanically described papers that place as having a very close affinity with the 400 kilometres away *P. fawcettii*. It is really great that a well known botanist now has given this Bundaberg, zamiad a logical latin naming and all such study are steps in the right direction. I am a non-botanist, and my observations on lomandrioides, have been, eleven visits since 1970. It is my opinion that its nearest form is the Tin-Can Bay type.

On all occasions I found this species growing in a greyish white sandy loam generally with a five centimetre topping of white to off-white sand. Mostly with native flowering sub-shrubs, and often with low growing spp. of banksia. Where terrain had been previously cleared generally the only regenerating foliage nearby was low, sparsely phylloded acacia shrubs. Many specimens observed having up to four growing heads, but this possibly because of previous disturbance or damage. On my last visit some eighteen months ago I observed surveyors pegs throughout the areas so perhaps this in future will add to the hazards of this species conservation-wise.



parazamia lomandrioides
McCormacks property
1983

Both pauli-guilielmi and lomandrioides have crowding of the pinnae on the rhachis stems, in each case this is attributable to the multi-twisting of their respective rhachises.

At least one other cycadale taxonomist has discussed with me the peculiarity of the clear edge toothing of lomandrioides and the complete lack of it in many of the specimens observed, and a second and perhaps more logical explanation well worth discussion, emerges.

It is well known that many species overlap in their territories, so the entire pinnae could well be a crossing of pauli-guilielmi, with lomandrioides and the intergraded cross, the entire leaf form, making the toothier specimens the truest form.

Ripening time for seed is believed to be March to April.