

short, branches spreading, glabrous; flowers spirally arranged, generally in scattered clusters of 3, males in pairs towards the upper part of the branches, females solitary between 2 males in lower part. *Male flowers*  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter; stamens 12, filaments equalling the anthers. *Female flowers* ovoid with appressed perianth segments. *Fruit* globose, about 1 inch in length. *Seed* globose.

Habitat.—Ceylon.

This palm has not yet fruited in the gardens, though it has several times flowered. The plant which is in the Palm Valley is at present about 15 feet in height and is very attractive with its close growing crown of leaves and blood red flower spikes.

F. FLIPPANCE.

(To be continued.)

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### Polyembryony.

Two instances of what presumably are cases of polyembryony were recently noticed by Mr. G. B. Deshmukh on germinating seeds in the Economic Gardens.

In one case, that of *Citrus decumana*, L. the Pomelo, one seed bore five shoots each with its own diminutive cotyledon and rootlet. These shoots were separated and planted and have done well.

The other case was a seed of the Avocado Pear, *Persea gratissima*, Gaertn. which gave rise to six shoots and a common root. They were difficult to separate and have been allowed to grow as they arose.

The above seeds took longer to germinate than the normal seeds did, and the first shoots were somewhat weakly in their early stages.

Mr. Deshmukh also reports that at the same time adventitious buds were observed on the leaves of a cabbage.

T. F. C.

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### Relation of Soil Acidity to Plant Juice.

In Soil Science Vol. VII, No. 6. E. Trong and M. R. Meacham bring to a conclusion their paper on Soil Acidity in its bearing on the acidity of the Plant Juice. In view of the large amount of fruit planting at present contemplated in Malaya the following extract from the above quoted paper should prove of value in influencing planters in their selection of soil.

“There are considerable differences in the acidities of juices of different species of plants. The acidity of each species of plant, while it may vary to an extent easily measurable, is, however, usually limited to a rather narrow range. Undoubtedly for each species of