

For Immediate Release
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Proceedings of Cycad 2005

The 7th International Conference on Cycad Biology

An overview of the latest knowledge about the evolution, pollination botany, ethnobotany, conservation status, and molecular biology of living cycads

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Proceedings of Cycad 2005 is a comprehensive record of research presented at the 7th International Conference on Cycad Biology, January 8–12, 2005. The conference was held in Veracruz, Mexico at the Jardín Botánico Francisco Javier Clavijero under the auspices of the Cycad Specialist Group, part of the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union. The *Proceedings* are co-edited by an international team of leading cycad scientists, Andrew P. Vovides, Dennis Wm. Stevenson, and Roy Osborne.

Dr. Stevenson, Vice President for Laboratory Research at The New York Botanical Garden, observes, “The research presented in this volume will undoubtedly prove indispensable to the survival of these plants in habitat—as well as of the animals and insects dependent upon the plants. It will also ensure the continuity of their place within the world’s cultures, provide the platform for future research, enrich the lives of those interested in natural history and the world around them, and preserve a glimpse of the history of life on Earth.”

Cycads have been around for 250 million years, during which time they have retained seemingly unchanged features. They also have developed unique characteristics that are useful today in medicine and agriculture, adding to their status as an irreplaceable group within the world’s biodiverse plant kingdom. The International Conference on Cycad Biology, held every three years since its inception in 1987, has become a prominent meeting, focusing on all aspects of the biology of this unusual, important, and interesting group of plants. The conferences stimulate research ranging from horticultural aspects to conservation and neurobiology and promote *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation globally. Each of the conferences has produced a volume of papers on the varied aspects of cycad biology; this volume is the seventh and most extensive in the series.

This volume represents the current state of published knowledge about the evolution, pollination biology, ethnobotany, conservation status, and molecular biological aspects, among other topics, of living cycads. Some of the articles are in Spanish, and all have Spanish and English abstracts.

Even though these plants have survived the vicissitudes of time and trials, they are now endangered as a result of human activities. Of particular interest are the several papers in this volume on the conservation biology—both *ex-situ* and *in-situ*—of the group, pest control issues, the role of insects and birds in the biology of cycads, and the relationship of these plants to human activities and their role in many cultures.

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About The New York Botanical Garden Press

The New York Botanical Garden Press (www.nybgpress.org) has one of the largest publishing programs of any independent botanical garden in the world and provides a means for communication of research carried out by scientists at The New York Botanical Garden and elsewhere. Begun in 1896, the program focuses on advances in knowledge about the classification, utilization, and conservation of plant life.

Proceedings of Cycad 2005 is volume 97 of the *Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden*, a series published since 1900. The *Memoirs* include comprehensive, original research papers focusing on taxonomy and floristics with an emphasis on New World plants.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by the New York City Council and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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