

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Arecales	Areaceae

Common name

Synonym

Jessenia amazonum , Drude
Loroma amethystina , O.F.Cook
Loroma cunninghamiana , (H.Wendl.) O.F.Cook
Ptychosperma cunninghamianum , H.Wendl.
Seaforthia elegans , Hook.
Seaforthia cunninghamii , (H.Wendl.) Hort. ex F.M.Bailey
Seaforthia nobilis ,Lhotsky

Similar species

Archontophoenix alexandrae

Summary

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana, commonly known as the bangalow palm, the king palm and the piccabeen palm, is largely cultivated for its tall, graceful appearance. It is endemic to the south east Australian coast, where it fruits and flowers all year round, and can grow up to 30 m high. *A. cunninghamiana* is extremely tolerant of shade and is able to grow in a range of soils; it has become invasive in several countries, including Australia, Brazil and New Zealand. It is monoecious, a prolific seeder, and can germinate fairly quickly (1 - 3 months), all of which contribute to its invasiveness.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana is a tall, graceful palm that can grow up to 30 m in its native habitat. The trunk is undivided, of a uniform diameter (to 30 cm) and smooth and ringed . It has visible leaf scars and may be slightly swollen at the base. The crown is leafy, with leaves up to 4.5 m long, which are bright-to-dark green on both surfaces. Leaves are compound, deciduous, unarmed and pinnately divided, with 70 - 90 pairs of leaflets that are up to 1 m long. Inflorescence is monoecious and occurs all year round in its native range and Brazil. It is many branched, with flowers that are purple-lavender, with a panicle of 30 - 40 cm long. Once emerged, inflorescence hangs 1 - 1.2 m below the crown shaft. Staminate flowers are 6 mm, pistillate flowers are 4 mm. Flowers develop into ovoid green fruits (1.5 cm), which ripen to bright orange-red. (Cameron 2000; Christianini 2006; Dowe 2009; PIER 2008a; WestOne undated).

Uses

Ornamental. (USDA-ARS 2008).

Habitat Description

Juvenile *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* plants are susceptible to frost, but mature trees can withstand light frosts. While able to grow in full shade, *A. cunninghamiana* grows better in sunlight. *A. cunninghamiana* prefers moist to wet clay loams to loams at a pH5 to 7.5, but is adaptable. (PIER 2008a; WestOne undated; Williams 2008).



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*

Reproduction

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana is monoecious, with both male and female flowers occurring on the inflorescence. In Brazil and in its native range it flowers and fruits all year round. *A. cunninghamiana* produces a copious amount of seeds, which are distributed by gravity, birds and water currents. Seeds germinate readily (1-3 months). (Christianini 2006; Dowe 2009; Ellis *et al.* 1985).

General Impacts

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana can shade out native species. It can also displace native palm species, such as nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) in New Zealand and may be taking advantage of the absence of the native palm *Euterpe edulis* in Brazil. Its ability to grow in a range of soil conditions, and the fact that it is self-fertile and a prolific seeder increases its invasiveness. (ARC 2008; Christianini 2006; Williams 2008).

Management Info

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana is an organism requiring research for management purposes in New Zealand and Brazil. Physical control measures have been recommended for *A. cunninghamiana* control in forest fragments in São Paulo, Brazil. (ARC 2008; Christianini 2006; Dislich & Pivello 2002; NRC 2009; Williams 2008).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Auckland Regional Council (ARC)

Review:

Publication date: 2010-06-10

ALIEN RANGE

[1] BRAZIL

[1] NEW CALEDONIA

[1] SINGAPORE

[2] UNITED STATES

[1] EGYPT

[3] NEW ZEALAND

[1] SOUTH AFRICA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

26 references found for *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*

Management information

Cameron, E.K. 2000. Bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) begins to naturalise. *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 60: 12-16.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz/newsletter/NZBotSoc-2000-60.pdf> [Accessed August 24 2010]

Dislich, Ricardo; Kissler, Nabor; Pivello, Vania R., 2002. The invasion of a forest fragment in Sao Paulo (SP) by the Australian palm *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* H. Wendl. & Drude. *Revista Brasileira de Botanica*. 25(1). 2002. 55-64.

Dislich, Ricardo; Pivello, Vania Regina, 2002. Tree structure and species composition changes in an urban tropical forest fragment (Sao Paulo, Brazil) during a five-year interval. *Boletim de Botanica da Universidade de Sao Paulo*. 20 2002. 1-11.

Foxcroft, Llewellyn C.; David M. Richardson & John R. U. Wilson, 2008. Ornamental Plants as Invasive Aliens: Problems and Solutions in Kruger National Park, South Africa. *Environmental Management* (2008) 41:32-51

Meyer, Jean-Yves; Lavergne, Christophe; Hodel, Donald R., 2008. Time bombs in gardens: Invasive ornamental palms in tropical islands, with emphasis on French Polynesia (Pacific Ocean) and the Mascarenes (Indian Ocean) Palms. 52(2). JUN 2008. 71-83.

Summary: Available from: http://li-an.fr/jyves/Meyer_et_al._2008_Palms.pdf [Accessed 24 August 2010]

Northland Regional Council (NRC) 2009. Part 4: Proposed plant pest management strategy. *Proposed Plant and Animal Pest Management Strategies for Northland*.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.nrc.govt.nz> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER), 2008. Risk Assessment: *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (H.Wendland) Wendl. & Drude. *Areaceae*

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/pacific/archontophoenix_cunninghamiana_htmlwra.htm [Accessed 24 August 2010]



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*

Williams, A. Peter. . The role of blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) in weed invasion in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* (2006) 30(2): 285-291

Summary: Available from: http://www.newzealandecology.org.nz/nzje/free_issues/NZJcol30_2_285.pdf [Accessed 24 August 2010]

Williams P.A. 2008. Biological success and weediness of some terrestrial weeds not presently in the Northland Regional Council's RPMS. Prepared for: [Northland Regional Council](#).

Summary: Available from: <http://www.envirolink.govt.nz> [Accessed 26 August 2010]

General information

Catalogue of Life 2010. *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*. Catalogue of Life: 2010 Annual Checklist.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.catalogueoflife.org> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Chong K.Y., Tan H.T.W., Corlett R.T. 2009. A checklist of the total vascular plant flora of Singapore. *Native, Naturalised and Cultivated Species*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research.

Summary: Available from: <http://rmbn.nus.edu.sg> [Accessed 26 August 2010]

Christianini, Alexander V., Fecundity, dispersal and predation of seeds of *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* H. Wendl. & Drude, an invasive palm in the Atlantic forest. *Revista Brasil. Bot.*, V.29, n.4, p.587-594, out.-dez. 2006

County of San Diego undated. [Lakeside Tropical Pool Plant List](#).

Summary: Available from: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Dowe, J.L. 2009. *Archontophoenix (Arecaceae): description of species and notes*. *The Palm Journal*, 102:4-11.

Summary: Available from: http://www-public.jcu.edu.au/idc/groups/public/documents/journal_article/jcuprd_054782.pdf [Accessed 24 August 2010]

Dowe, John L.; Hodel, Donald R., 1994. A revision of *Archontophoenix* H.Wendl. and Drude (Arecaceae) *Austrobaileya*. 4(2). 1994. 227-244.

Downer J., Hodel D. 2001. The effects of mulching on establishment of *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Becc., *Washingtonia robusta* H.

Wendl. and *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (H. Wendl.) H. Wendl. & Drude in the landscape. *Scientia Horticulturae* 87: 85-92.

Ellis R.H., Hong T.D., Roberts E.H. 1985. Chapter 53. *Palmaceae*. In: *Handbook of Seed Technology for Genebanks - Volume II. Compendium of Specific Germination Information and Test Recommendations. Online Version*.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.biodiversityinternational.org> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Global Compendium of Weeds (GCW) 2007. *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana (Arecaceae)*

Summary: Available from: <http://www.hear.org> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Jury A. 2010. [Our most stylish weed](#). *Taranaki Daily News online*.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER), 2008. *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana (H.Wendland) Wendl. & Drude, Arecaceae*.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.hear.org> [Accessed 24 August 2010]

Starr F., Starr K. 2010. *Plants of Hawaii. Archontophoenix cunninghamiana (king palm, bangalow palm, piccabeen palm)*.

Summary: Available from: <http://www.hear.org> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 1935. *Plant material introduced by the division of plant exploration and introduction, bureau of plant industry, April 1 to June 30, 1933 (Nos. 102378-103406)*. United States Department of Agriculture Inventory No. 115.

Summary: Available from: <http://ddr.nal.usda.gov> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

USDA-ARS, 2010. *Taxon: Archontophoenix cunninghamiana (H. Wendl.) H. Wendl. & Drude*. National Genetic Resources Program.

Germlasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN) [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.

Summary: Available from: http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/tax_search.pl?Archontophoenix%20cunninghamiana [Accessed 24 August 2010]

Waterhouse, J. T & C. J. Quinn, 1978. Growth patterns in the stem of the palm *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 77: 73-93. 1978

WestOne undated. [Archontophoenix cunninghamiana](#).

Summary: Available from: <http://www.westone.wa.gov.au> [Accessed 25 August 2010]

Wiser, S.K. and R.B. Allen, 2006. 13 What Controls Invasion of Indigenous Forests by Alien Plants? in *Ecological Studies*, Vol. 186 R.B.Allen and W.G.Lee (Eds.) *Biological Invasions in New Zealand*