(vii) Plants with large inflorescences or other large parts.

When collecting plants such as agaves, palms, pandans (Stone 1983), or bananas, the lengths of the flowering and non-flowering parts of the inflorescences and trunk heights should be noted. For plants such as large-leaved palms, cycads, bananas, and aroids, the smallest complete leaf is often many times larger than the standard sheet. There are two collection and storage methods for such plants. One technique is to cut the leaf into numerous (carefully numbered) portions which are attached to multiple herbarium sheets in the herbarium or museum. This has the advantage of not requiring alternative storage areas. Disadvantages include the need for additional documentation, preferably including photographs, and the difficulty of relating the specimen to the living plant. The alternative technique is to collect the entire leaf and to provide special separate storage for such material. The main disadvantages of this technique are that the material is difficult to handle in the field (to press and dry) and greater storage space is required.

(viii) Bananas.

The collection of giant herbaceous plants, like bananas, some aroids, and heliconias, is always difficult. As for all large plants, it is impossible to collect the entire banana (*Musa*) plant as a herbarium specimen. Photographs, sketches, and extensive detailed notes are essential. Record the following features:

- Pseudostem ('stem'): suckering habit, height, colour, degree of waxiness, colour of exudates (sap), height, and diameter.
- Leaves: held erect or spreading, length and width of lamina (size of leaf blade), length of petiole (stalk of leaf), including leaf colour, waxiness, and markings), margin of sheath (lower part of leaf that more or less surrounds the stem).
- Fruit clusters: banana fruit grow in hanging clusters, with fruit arranged in a 'hand', and several hands form a bunch. Record if the bunches are erect, semi-pendulous, or pendulous, number of hands per bunch, whether hands compact or distant from each other, number of 'fingers' (individual fruits per hand), and whether fingers are close together or distant.

p. 259

- ↳ Fingers: curved upwards or downward, length, diameter, cylindrical or angular at maturity, colour of skin when immature and mature, whether skin peels off mature fingers, colour of pulp surrounding seeds.
- Rachis: the axis of the fruiting bunch. Record if rachis is directly pendulous, slightly S-shaped, or markedly so.
- Male bud: occurs at the end of the rachis. Record shape, size, and colour (photograph and make a drawing). Also record whether or not the bracts overlap each other.

To make adequate herbarium specimens from bananas is extremely difficult, but the best method is to store most material, except for leaf samples, in bottles containing solutions of 70 per cent ethanol or methylated spirit. Removing some of the bracts from female and male flowers assists with the penetration of the preserving liquid.