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Flower biology and pollination of some short-stemmed palms in tropical rainforest and cerrados

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Palms are typical for the tropics and distinctive of other plant families, yet they are more diverse in form than other monocotyledon families. Besides the tall-stemmed species (4-60 m), also middle-sized (2-4 m) and short-stemmed ones (0.5 m -2m) occur in different vegetation forms. Flowering rhythm, flower morphology and pollination are shown for several of the low and the “acaulous” species. In most cases, their pollination does not differ from phenomena in the tall palms, in having either many insect groups or the wind as pollinators (many of them being generalists), or only bees, flies, or beetles (specialists). Additionally, two rare modes of pollination are presented, bat pollination of *Calypstrogyne ghiesbreghtiana* in Costa Rica and pollination by non-flying mammals in the Asian palm, *Eugeissona tristis*.