1986 RR-86-134

YU GMW BRJ
MIS :AM-PLANT
CUBANS DISCOVER PLANT THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT:
HAVANA: MAY 30: REUTER - A TROPICAL WATER PLANT: THE MARATHRUM CUBANUN: WHICH WAS THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT IN A NATURAL HABITAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE SALTO DE LOS PORTALES RIVER IN THE WESTERNMOST PART OF THIS ISLAND: THE CUBAN NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY AIN REPORTED TODAY.
SPECIMENS OF THE PLANT: A MEMBER OF THE PODOSTEMASEAS FAMILY: CAN BE FOUND IN BOTANICAL GARDENS IN NEW YORK AND STOCKHOLM: AIN SAID.
ACCORDING TO CUBAN NATURALISTS: THE MARANTHRUM CUBANUN WAS FIRST DISCOVERED BY THE GERMAN BOTANIST A. GRISEBACH AND INCLUDED IN HIS CATALOGUE OF CUBAN PLANTS IN 1866. SPECIMENS OF THE PLANT WERE ALSO COLLECTED BY THE SWEDISH NATURALIST ERICK EKMAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY.
SUBSEQUENTLY NO FURTHER SPECIMENS OF THE PLANT COULD BE FOUND AND IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT.
THE MARANTHRUM CUBANUN: WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING AN UNUSUAL FLOWER: GROWS ON ROCKS IN RIVERS WHERE THE CURRENTS ARE STRONG.
THE PLANTS WERE REDISCOVERED IN THE SAME REGION IN WHICH ERICK EKMAN FOUND THEM DECADES AGO. THE AREA IS NOW A CAMPING SITE AND HIKERS AND VACATIONNERS ARE BEING ASKED TO AVOID DAMAGE TO THE PLANTS.
==REUTER LEM/SYL