

*Agave caymanensis* Proctor, sp.nov. FIG. 71. PLATE 7.

CORATO

Large, fleshy rosette plants, at first acaulescent but at maturity developing a woody caudex up to 1 m high. Leaves massive, medium green, elliptic-oblongate, up to 1.5 m long, 20–25 cm broad above the middle, acuminate at the spine-tipped apex; marginal prickles numerous, 5–14 mm apart, glossy dark brown, curved or reflexed-triangular (rarely straight), 1–4 mm long, often growing from green prominences of the undulate margin. Inflorescence up to 6 m tall or more, densely paniculate toward the apex; flowers bright yellow on pedicels 5–10 mm long; perianth 15–20 mm long, the tepals expanded at base, narrowing to an elongate apex; array narrowly fusiform 30–40 mm long, much longer than the perianth; style 30–35 mm long, long exerted, bifurcate at the expanded apex. Capsules not seen; bulbils often produced.

GRAND CAYMAN: Brunt 1765; Proctor 15160. LITTLE CAYMAN: Proctor 49338, 52171 (type, IJ). CAYMAN BRAC: Kings CB79, CB88; Proctor 47801.

Endemic; grows in dry, rocky, exposed situations. Differs from *Agave sobolifera* (with which it was formerly confused) by the development of a woody caudex at maturity; by having leaves broader in proportion to their length than those of *A. sobolifera*; and by having a much longer ovary (30–40 mm vs 15–20(–25) mm), shorter perianth, and longer exerted style.

*Agave caymanensis* Proctor, sp.nov. ab *A. sobolifera* caudice in maturitate lignoso, foliis in proportione latoribus, ovario multo longiore (30–40 mm non 15–20 neque 25 mm), perianthio brevior et stylo longiore exserto differt.

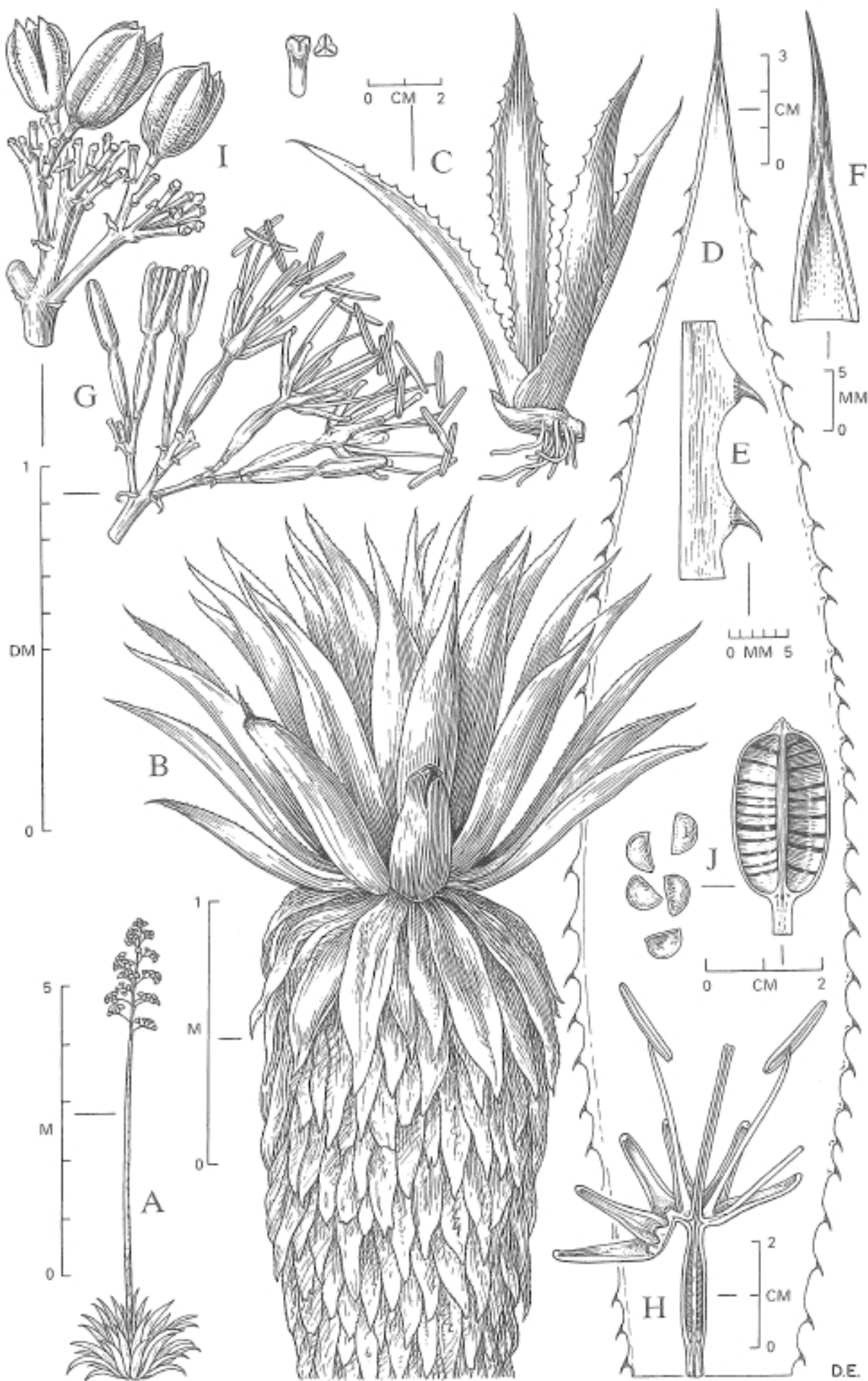


FIG. 71 *Agave caymanensis*. A, general habit. B, single very old plant with woody trunk. C, young plant growing from bulbil. D, outline of leaf. E, marginal spines. F, apical spine. G, portion of inflorescence, H, dissected flower. I, portion of fruiting inflorescence. J, long-section of capsule and seeds. (D.E.)