

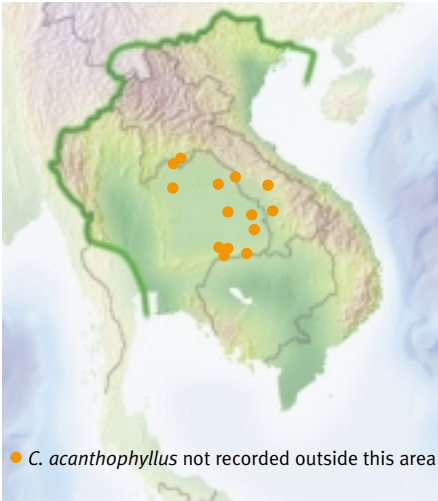
Calamus acanthophyllus

(wai tia, wai kok, wai foom, wai nang)

No stem Clustering No climbing organ No knee

Look for:

- Stemless habit and open, not tubular leaf sheaths.
- Leaves erect, the leaflets often in groups and with stiff golden spines.



Habitat

In Lao grows in dry, open forest and bamboo scrub, often in areas with regular fires, below 200 m. Habitat similar in Thailand.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers in bud 7, 11 (Thailand), open 3 (Lao).
Fruit unripe 1, 4 (Lao), 12, 6 (Thailand), ripe 11 (Thailand).

Uses

Handicrafts: leaves used to make brooms.
Trade: not suitable.
Shoot: edible.
Root can be used to treat malaria.

Planting

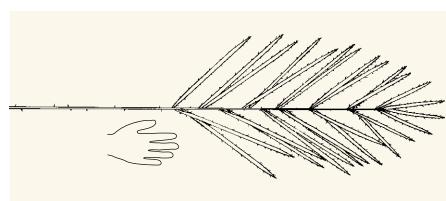
None known in Lao.



Stem

Spines yellow, conical at base, 0.1–0.5 cm long.

Ocrea a pair of papery, red-brown ear-like projections.



Whole **leaf** 0.5–1.5 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 10–90 cm long.

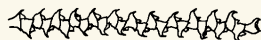
Largest leaflets 15–23 cm × 0.8–1.5 cm.

Leaflets plumose, usually in groups of 2–3. Above three prominent veins, the middle one with stiff, erect yellow spines. Similar erect spines on margins.



Inflorescence 0.4–1.1 m long with no flagellum. Erect.

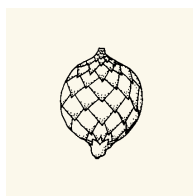
Primary bracts entire, slightly inflated.



♂ usually 1–2-branched.



♀ usually 1-branched.



Fruit

1.2 cm long

0.9 cm wide

Scales dull whitish (yellow when dry) with fine dark margins.

Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. salicifolius* (17a): short climbing stem, tubular leaf sheaths, leaflet spines black if present.
- *C. viminalis* (4): seedling similar, but has tubular leaf sheaths and long, straight spines on the rachis.