

# *Calamus gracilis*

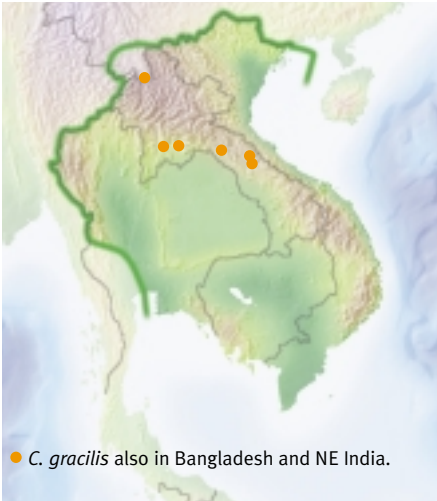
(wai hom, wai soum, wai tairtair)

**Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee conspicuous**

One of the best quality small diameter canes.

## Look for:

- Leaf sheath with spines  $\leq 0.5$  cm long, swollen, conical at base.
- Leaflets interrupted pinnate, dark green. Petiole  $\leq 3$  cm long.
- Fruit very distinctive, large and orange when mature and fresh.



## Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 300–750 m. Up to 850 m in S Yunnan.

## Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

Fruit unripe 5 (S Yunnan), ripe 3 (Lao).

## Uses

Handicrafts: high quality.

Trade: one of the preferred species in Lao.

Shoot: edible.

## Planting

None known in Lao. High potential.



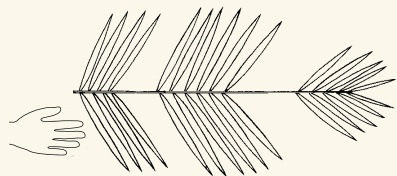
## Stem

Stem up to 30 m long and 0.4–1 cm diameter.

Sheath 0.5–2 cm diameter. Sheath dark green with dark indumentum.

Spines green with short black points, swollen and conical at base, slightly pointing up,  $\leq 0.5$  cm long.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.

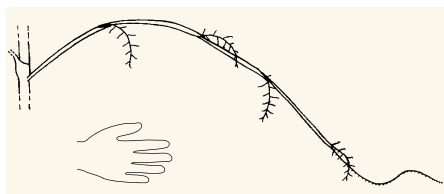


Whole **leaf** 0.3–0.7 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 0–3 cm long.

Largest leaflets 25–35 cm × 1.5–2.5 cm.

Dark shiny green on both surfaces. 3–5 veins on upper side with bristles, below a few bristles only on middle vein. Margins bristly.



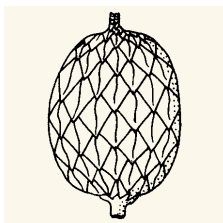
**Inflorescence** 0.3–0.7 m long plus flagellum. Branches slightly pendulous.

Primary bracts inflated, with short tattered (not lacerated) limb.



♂ (not illustrated) usually 2-branched.

♀ usually 2-branched.



### Fruit

2.5 cm long

1.7 cm wide

Scales orange in life, straw-yellow when dry or unripe. Deeply channelled.

Seed ruminant.

### Compare:

- *Calamus henryanus* (11): Leaf sheath with many flattened, triangular spines  $\geq 1$  cm long, petiole  $\geq 10$  cm long, leaflets mid-light green.
- *Calamus siamensis* (5): Leaf sheath spines often  $\geq 2$  cm, without swollen, conical bases, petiole  $\geq 8$  cm, fruit much smaller.