

Calamus solitarius

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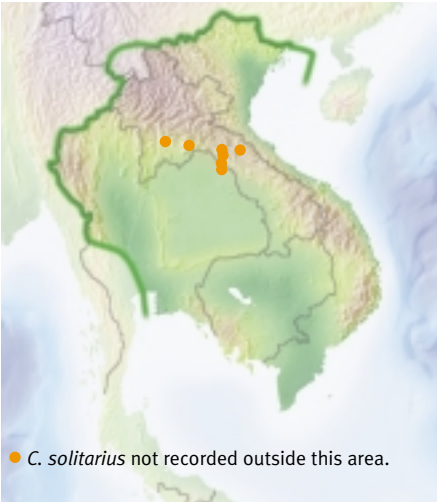
(*wai thork, wai yong, wai hakyong, wai savang*)

Climbing Solitary Flagellum Knee conspicuous

One of the most important small diameter canes in Lao, common and of high quality.

Look for:

- Leaflets in groups of 2–3 on each side of the rachis, with few or no bristles.
- Last pair of leaflets joined for 20–60% of their length.
- Solitary habit. Mature stems have long inflorescences and partial inflorescences ≥ 60 cm.



● *C. solitarius* not recorded outside this area.

Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 200–600 m. In NE Thailand at 200 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

Fruit unripe 12 (Lao), 2 (Thailand).

Uses

Handicrafts: high quality.

Trade: one of the preferred species in Lao.

Shoot: edible but very small.

Planting

Small trial plantation at Nam Xuang.

Moderate potential.



Stem

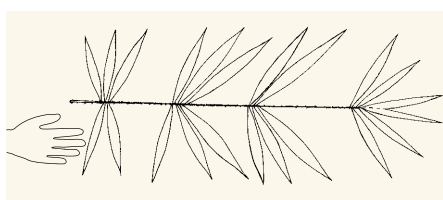
Stem up to 50 m long or more and 0.4–1 cm diameter.

Sheath 0.6–1.5 cm diameter.

Sheath dark or pale green with some grey-brown indumentum.

Spines few or many. Green, slender, up to 2 cm long, with slightly swollen base. The roots often form stilts raising the base of the stem off the ground (hence ‘wai hakyong’) but this does not help to identify it.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.

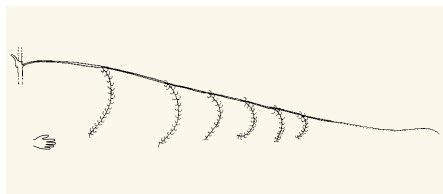


Whole **leaf** 0.5–1 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 2–10 cm long.

Largest leaflets 15–32 cm × 3.5–4.5 cm.

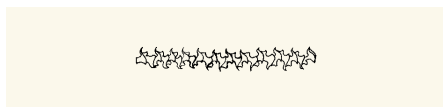
Three prominent veins above, central one occasionally with a few bristles. Margins slightly or not at all bristly.



Inflorescence 1.3–5 m plus flagellum.

Pendulous branches.

Primary bracts entire, tightly sheathing.



In both sexes, longest partial inflorescence usually ≥ 60 cm long and rachillae often curved right back.

♂ usually 3-branched.

♀ usually 2-branched.

Fruit (not illustrated)

≥ 0.8 cm long

≥ 0.8 cm wide

Scales pale yellow (when dry) with reddish margins. Not seen ripe. Perianth remains partly tubular.

Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. tetradactylus* (14): clustering habit, longest partial inflorescences ≤ 40 cm.
- *C. oligostachys* (13): clustering habit, inflorescences very little branched, partial inflorescences ≤ 10 cm. Fruit perianth not tubular.
- *C. dioicus* (15a): ocrea bristly, leaflets with three lines of bristles above, last pair not joined, longest partial inflorescence ≤ 40 cm.
- *C. hypoleucus* (17) and *C. salicifolius* (17a): no climbing organ, inflorescences erect, ≤ 50 cm long.