

Calamus oligostachys

(wai kating)

Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee conspicuous

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 20–50% of their length.
- Clustered habit. Long inflorescence, partial inflorescences ≤ 10 cm, not or hardly branched.



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

Habitat

In Lao in bamboo scrub on silty soil close to a seasonal stream at 150 m. In NE Thailand in evergreen forest at 200 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

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

Uses

Handicrafts: suitable.

Trade: suitable?

Shoot: edible, small.

Planting

None known in Lao.



Stem

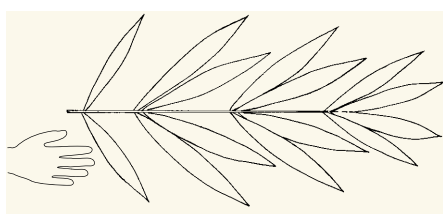
Stem up to 7 m long and 0.5 cm diameter.

Sheath 0.5–1 cm diameter.

Sheath green.

Spines yellow-brown, 0.2–0.7 cm.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.

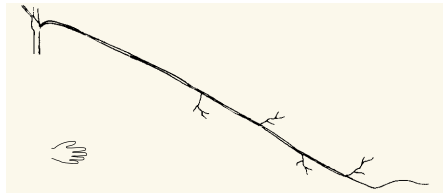


Whole **leaf** 0.4–0.6 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves ≤ 5 cm long.

Largest leaflets 14–25 cm \times 1.8–3.4 cm.

Three prominent veins above, central one occasionally with bristles. Margins smooth or sometimes with a few bristles near the tip.



Inflorescence 1.3–2.2 m long plus flagellum. Branches slightly pendulous.

Primary bracts entire and tightly sheathing.



♂ usually 1–2-branched. Each male partial inflorescence ≤ 11 cm long and has only 0–2 tiny second order branches.



♀ usually 1-branched. The female rachilla is ≤ 10 cm long, arises from the axis and has a 1–2 cm stalk with no flowers.

Fruit (not illustrated)

≥ 0.7 cm long

≥ 0.7 cm wide

Scales yellow (when dry) with fine dark margins. Fully ripe fruit unknown. Perianth not tubular.

Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. tetradactylus* (14): partial inflorescences well branched, longest ones ≥ 20 cm, perianth partly tubular.
- *C. solitarius* (12): solitary habit, longest partial inflorescences ≥ 60 cm and well branched.
- *C. dioicus* (15a): ocrea bristly, leaflets with three lines of bristles above, last pair not joined, inflorescence 2-branched
- *C. hypoleucus* (17) and *C. salicifolius* (17a): no climbing organ, inflorescences erect, ≤ 50 cm long.