

# *Calamus tetradactylus*

(*wai hangnou, wai hangnou nyai, wai savang, kaceck doikanair, re peu*)

**Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee conspicuous**

A high quality small-diameter cane widely planted in Vietnam and China.

## Look for:

- Slender stem and leaflets usually in groups of 2–3 on a side. Last pair joined 20–40%.
- Leaflets usually with bristly margins.
- Clustering habit. Longest partial inflorescences 10–40 cm, well branched.

## Habitat

Evergreen forest and scrub at 100–1000 m.

## Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers in bud 8 (Lao), 6, 8 (Thailand), open 8 (Lao). Fruit unripe 1, 5 (Lao), 12 (Thailand), 7–1 (Vietnam). Ripe 5 (Lao), 3 (Cambodia), 4 (Vietnam).

## Uses

Handicrafts: suitable, high quality.

Trade: one of the preferred species in Vietnam.

Shoot: unknown.

## Planting

None known in Lao. Reported to be commonly cultivated in Vietnam (especially N) for cane production in plantations and home gardens.

## Stem

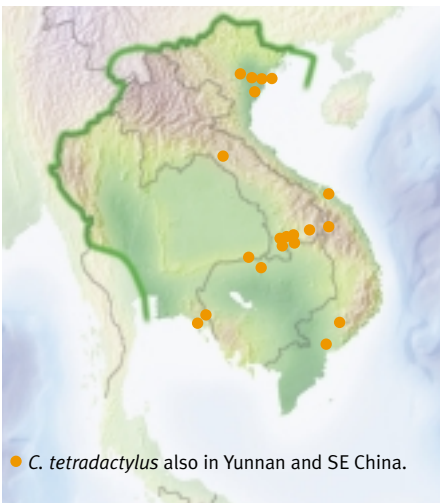
Stem up to 6 m long and 0.3–1 cm diameter.

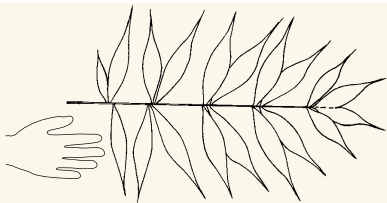
Sheath 0.7–1.8 cm diameter.

Sheath dark green.

Spines yellow-brown with dark brown tips, 0.2–1.5 cm, varying from many to few.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles (may be 1 cm long when the leaf is still opening).



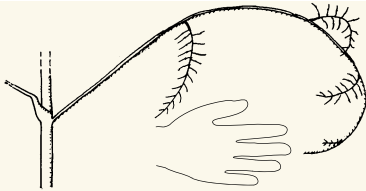


Whole **leaf** 0.2–0.6 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 3–10 cm long.

Largest leaflets 11–28 cm × 2–6.5 cm.

Grouping of leaflets sometimes quite irregular. Three prominent veins above, the middle one usually naked, sometimes with a few bristles. Margins bristly except in Bolikhamxay Province, Lao.



**Inflorescence** 0.4–1.8 m long plus (usually) a flagellum. Branches pendulous.

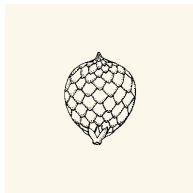
Primary bracts entire, either tightly sheathing or slightly inflated near base of inflorescence.



Partial inflorescences of both sexes 10–40 cm long. Male and female rachillae sometimes curved right back.

♂ usually 3-branched.

♀ usually 2-branched.



### Fruit

0.9 cm long

0.9 cm wide

Scales pale yellow (when dry) with fine dark margins. Perianth partly tubular.

Seed slightly ruminant.

### Compare:

- *C. solitarius* (12): solitary, high climbing habit, longest partial inflorescences  $\geq 60$  cm.
- *C. oligostachys* (13): partial inflorescences  $\leq 10$  cm, not or very little branched. Fruit perianth not tubular.
- *C. dioicus* (15a): ocrea bristly, leaflets with several lines of bristles above, last pair not joined.