

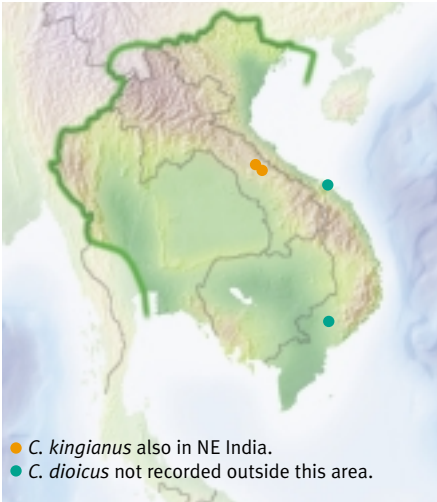
# *Calamus kingianus*

(*wai leum*)

Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee conspicuous

## Look for:

- Largest leaflets usually  $\geq 40$  cm, irregularly grouped.
- Leaflets have bristly upper surface but no marginal bristles.
- Inflorescence and sheath with a rough surface made up of tiny prickles. Short, bristly ocrea.



## Habitat

In Lao grows in degraded evergreen forest on flat ground on the Nakay Plateau, 500–550 m.

## Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers open 3.

Fruit ?

## Uses

Handicrafts: suitable.

Trade: unknown.

Shoot: unknown.

## Planting

None known in Lao.



## Stem

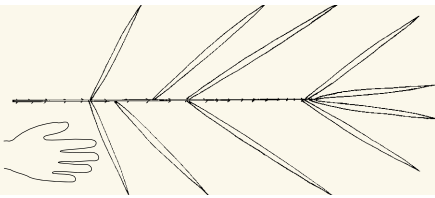
Stem up to 7 m long and 0.6–1 cm diameter.

Sheath 1–1.3 cm diameter.

Sheath green, striped with paler indumentum when freshly emerged.

Spines green or yellow-brown, with black tips, 0.2–1 cm, stiff, brittle. Also many tiny prickles giving a rough surface.

Ocrea  $\leq 1$  cm, densely bristly.

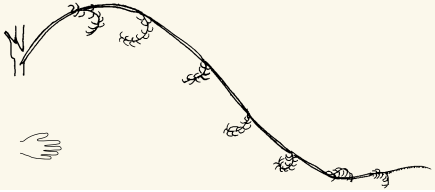


Whole **leaf** 0.4–0.5 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 15–21 cm long.

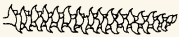
Largest leaflets 40–43 cm × 2–3.7 cm.

Three prominent veins above, all naked or slightly bristly. Margins smooth or with 1–2 bristles near tip. Last pair often not joined.



**Inflorescence** 1.5–3 m long plus flagellum. Branches pendulous.

Primary bracts entire and tightly sheathing. Rough prickly surface.



♂ usually 3-branched. Flowers close together (1.7–1.8 mm spacing) .



♀ usually 2-branched. Rachillae look thick and messy. Flowers close together, bracts wrinkled.

### Fruit

Ripe fruit unknown.

### Compare:

- *C. solitarius* (12), *C. oligostachys* (13), *C. tetradactylus* (14): leaflets  $\leq 30$  cm, usually strongly grouped, inflorescence and sheath not rough, no ocrea, rachillae differ.

#### ● 15a *Calamus dioicus*

Small bristly ocrea, sheath spines soft and flexible, leaflets with bristly margins and three lines of bristles above, last pair of leaflets not joined, inflorescence and sheath not rough, female rachillae smaller and thinner, male flowers at 3.2–3.5 mm intervals. In evergreen forest at 200 m.