

Calamus rudentum

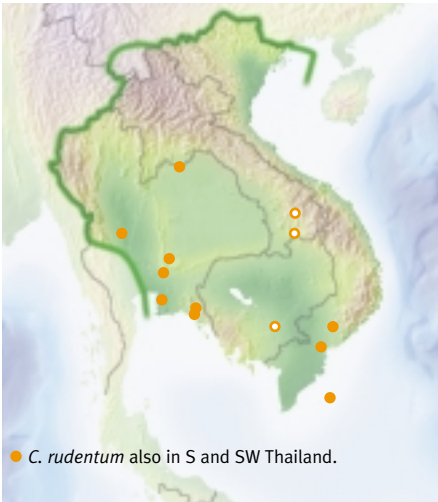
20

(wai boun, boun, probably also wai tabong, boun dam, boun khao)

Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee present, indistinct

Look for:

- Robust, the leaf sheath covered in many long flat spines, pale with dark tips.
- Leaf sheath deeply split on one side. Long petiole spines embrace the stem.
- Leaflets large, regularly arranged. Petiole with a smooth channel in the upper surface.



Habitat

In Lao in scrub near a village at 200 m. Probably also in evergreen forest in S Lao. In N and SE Thailand in evergreen forest at 100–400 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers in bud 3 (Lao), 3, 5 (Thailand), open 3 (Lao). Fruit unripe in all months (Lao), 1, 5–7 (Thailand), 6, 12 (Vietnam), ripe 6–7 (Lao).

Uses

Handicrafts: high quality.

Trade: suitable.

Shoot: edible.

Fruits sometimes sold as food.

Planting

Small trial plantings at Nam Xuang and Ban Nongpennua, Vientiane Prefecture. High potential. Commercial planting reported in Vietnam.

Stem

Stem up to 30 m long and 2.5–3.5 cm diameter.

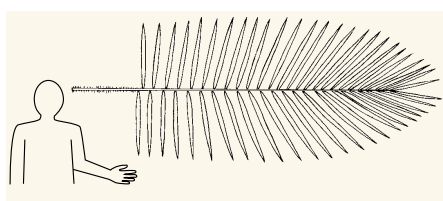
Sheath 4–7 cm diameter.

Sheath light green or yellowish green.

Spines many. Some long and flat (up to 6 cm), pale straw colour with dark tips. Also many tiny black needles mixed in. At the base of the petiole combs of spines up to 10 cm long are swept back across the stem.

Ocrea tiny.



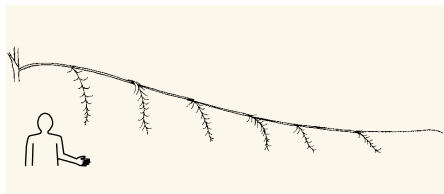


Whole **leaf** 1.8–3.8 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 20–60 cm long, with a smooth channel on the upper face.

Largest leaflets 45–65 cm × 1.5–2.5 cm.

Mid-veins prominent, with one line of black bristles ≥ 1 cm long above and below. Margins bristly.



Inflorescence 3.5–6.5 m long plus flagellum. Branches pendulous.

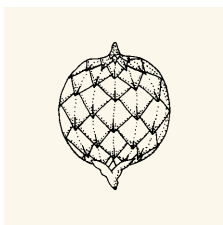
Primary bracts lacerate at the mouth. Slightly inflated.



♂ usually 2–3-branched. Flowers 3–3.5 mm apart in each row, rachilla bracts 2–2.5 mm wide, flowers 6 mm long.



♀ usually 2-branched. Flowers 7.5–9 mm apart in each row, rachilla bracts 4.5 mm wide.



Fruit

1.8 cm long

1.2 cm wide

Yellow when ripe with fine dark margins, scales channelled.

Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. flagellum* (19): has bigger leaflets, two bristly 'ears' at leaf sheath mouth, sheath not split, lacks very long petiole spines, rachillae of each sex much bigger, seed ruminant.
- *C. laoensis* (18): leaflets grouped, white underneath.
- *C. rhabdocladus* (21): top of petiole flat and spiny, interruptedly pinnate leaflets and very different male rachillae and fruits.