

# *Calamus rhabdocladus*

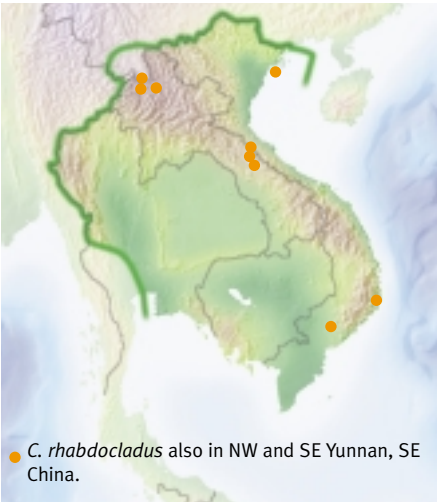
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(wai wan, boun wan, wai bounwan, wai bounyong, blong salay)

Climbing Clustering Flagellum No knee

## Look for:

- Leaf sheath covered in many long, flat, jet-black spines, petiole spiny on upper surface.
- Leaflets often interruptedly pinnate, usually  $\leq 40 \times 2$  cm, three lines of bristles above.
- Male rachillae much smaller than other species with similar leaf sheaths.



## Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 500–800 m. Also survives well in scrub. Recorded at 1000–1600 m in Vietnam.

## Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers in bud 5 (Lao), open 4, 5 (Vietnam).  
Fruit unripe 10, 1, 2 (Vietnam).

## Uses

Handicrafts: suitable.  
Trade: suitable.  
Shoot: edible, sweet.

## Planting

None known in Lao. May have good potential.



## Stem

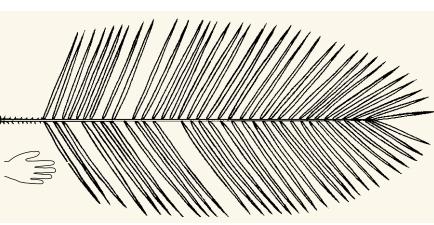
Stem up to 40 m long and up to 2.5 cm diameter.

Sheath 4–6 cm diameter.

Sheath green or yellow with reddish-brown indumentum.

Spines very many, short and long, up to 4 cm, black, all in neat rows. At sheath mouth can be  $\geq 10$  cm. Petiole spines may be pale tipped.

Ocrea absent or present as a small bristly tag on top of the base of the petiole.

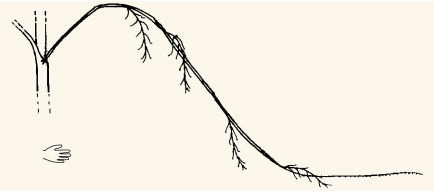


Whole **leaf** 1–2 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 20–40 cm long, flat and very spiny on upper face.

Largest leaflets 30–49 cm × 1.8–2 cm.

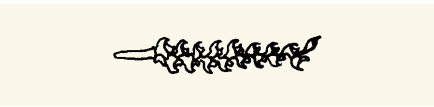
Leaflets regular or interruptedly pinnate, especially at the base of the rachis. Leaflets usually ≤40 cm. Three prominent veins above, all with bristles ≤0.5 cm long. Below a few bristles. Margins bristly.



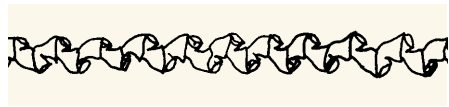
**Inflorescence** 2–4 m long plus flagellum.

Branches pendulous.

Primary bracts entire, closely sheathing.



♂ usually 3-branched. Rachillae less than 2 cm long, strongly curved.



♀ usually 2-branched. Rachillae up to 8 or rarely 15 cm long.



#### Fruit

1.4 cm long

0.8 cm wide

Many small, slightly channelled scales, yellow with red-brown margins.

Seed not ruminant.

#### Compare:

- *C. flagellum* (19): leaflets ≥50 cm, regular with only one line of bristles, leaf sheath with bristly 'ears', petiole with a deep, smooth channel.
- *C. rudentum* (20): leaflets regular, sheath deeply split opposite petiole, spines pale-based male rachillae longer, petiole with a deep, smooth channel.
- *C. laoensis* (18): leaflets grouped, white underneath, petiole with a deep, smooth channel.