

Calamus palustris

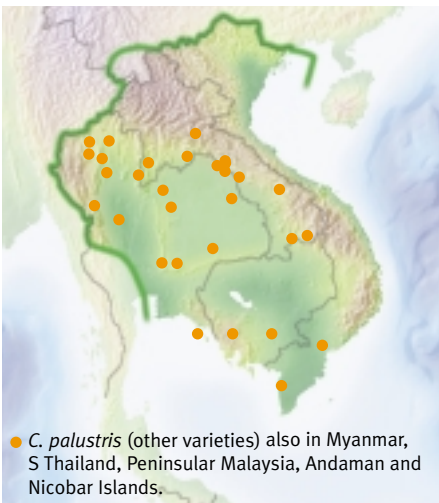
(wai hangnou, wai namleuang, wai khairt, wai kiyow, wai hom, wai namhang, wai tiukeng, wai savang, wai sard, wai kanebouang, re tair)

Climbing Clustering Cirrus Knee conspicuous

Widespread and variable. The variety *cochinchinensis* occurs in Indochina.

Look for:

- Cirrate leaves, knee and strongly grouped, boat-shaped leaflets shorter than 40 cm
- Leaf sheath up to 4.0 cm diameter, usually 0.7–2.5 cm.
- Fruit ≤ 1.2 cm long, with no pedicel, unchannelled scales and a red 'nipple' when fresh.



Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 100–650 m. In N and E Thailand up to 1300 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers in bud 12, 3 (Thailand), open 2 (Lao), 2, 11, 12 (Thailand).

Fruit unripe 2, 5 (Lao), 12, 1, 3 (Thailand), 4 (Vietnam), ripe 4–6 (Thailand).

Uses

Handicrafts: good quality.

Trade: one of the preferred species in Lao.

Shoot: edible.

Planting

Small trial plantation at Nam Xuang, Lao. High potential. Also reportedly grown in Vietnam.

Stem

Stem up to 30 m long and 0.3–1.5 cm diameter.

Sheath 0.7–3 (rarely 4) cm diameter.

Sheath green, sometimes striped with white indumentum.

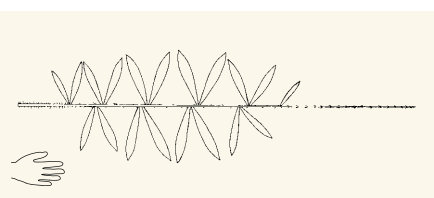
Flowering sheaths usually ≥ 1.3 cm diameter.

Spines yellow with long red tips, giving a black tip when dry.

Longest spines sometimes 3 cm, usually less. Very variable in number, ranging from a few long spines to many long and small spines mixed.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.



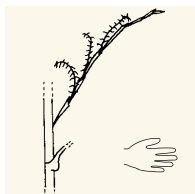


Whole **leaf** 0.65–1.9 m long plus a cirrus of 0.4–1 m.

Petiole of upper leaves 5–30 cm long.

Largest leaflets 17–40 cm × 2.5–7.5 cm.

Leaflets usually $\leq 35 \times 5.5$ cm, strongly boat-shaped, a few veins prominent above, all naked. Margins spiny.



Inflorescence 0.2–1.4 m long with no flagellum. Erect or drooping when longer. Male usually 0.6–1 m, female 0.2–0.5 m.

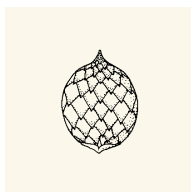
Primary bracts entire or with neatly defined decaying tip. Slightly inflated, well armed.



♂ usually 3-branched.



♀ usually 2-branched.



Fruit

0.7–1.2 cm long

0.7–1 cm wide

Scales pale, with red margins and no channels. Fruit tip has a red 'nipple' when fresh.

Perianth has no tubular part. Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- Other *Calamus* species with a cirrus partly (23–25): leaflets usually ≥ 35 cm, sheath usually ≥ 3 cm diameter, fruit ≥ 1.6 cm long with tubular perianth and channelled scales. *C. wailong* has regular leaflets, *C. platyacanthus* has very long spines, *C. nambariensis* grows at high altitudes.
- *C. tetradactylus* and similar species (12–15a): similar grouped leaflets, but they have a flagellum, not a cirrus.
- *C. bimaniferus* (16): cirrus smaller (≤ 15 cm) and a weak flagellum also present.