

Myrialepis paradoxa

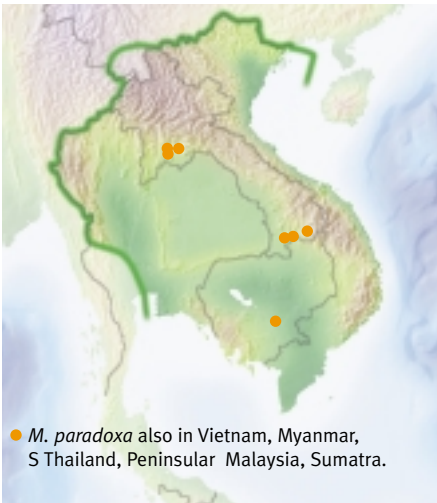
28

(wai namsay, wai deng, wai keekay, wai lao, reduln)

Climbing Clustering Cirrus No knee

Look for:

- Leaf sheaths and petiole near the ground have long golden spines in long combs.
- Leaflets mostly regular, never white underneath. No ocrea at any height.
- Fruits very distinctive with many tiny scales.



● *M. paradoxa* also in Vietnam, Myanmar, S Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra.

Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 100–300 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

Fruit unripe 5 (Lao).

Uses

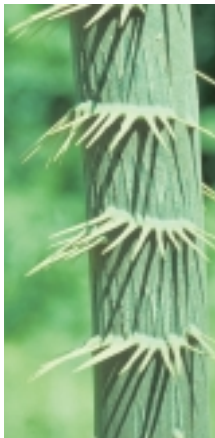
Handicrafts: suitable (lower part of stem).

Trade: unknown.

Shoot: edible.

Planting

Small trial plantation in Nam Xuang.



KP 406 (left); no specimen (right)

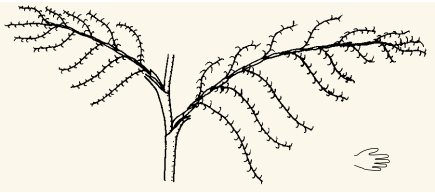
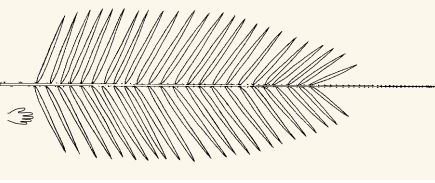
Stem

Stem up to 30 m long and 1–3 cm diameter.

Sheath 2.5–7 cm diameter. Sheath green, with red-brown indumentum. Stem and sheath thin near the ground, much thicker before flowering.

Spines on lower sheaths, up to 4 cm long, golden, joined in combs of 5–10. On upper sheaths (see left) spines become shorter, more scattered.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.



Whole **leaf** 1.5–2 m long plus a cirrus up to 1.8 m.

Petiole of upper leaves 15–30 cm long.

Largest leaflets 40–50 cm × 2.5–4 cm.

Leaflets regular or slightly grouped, with a rubbery texture. Can have a long hair-like tip. Middle veins prominent above, naked. Margins slightly bristly. Underside of leaflet with many tiny white dots (easier to see with a hand-lens).

Inflorescence 0.6–2 m long with no flagellum. Two shown in picture. Erect. Each stem flowers once and then dies.

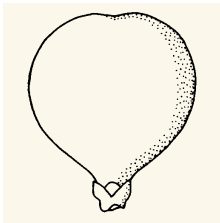
Primary bracts entire, tightly sheathing, unarmed. Branches are nearly at right angles.



♂ usually 3-branched. When 3-branched, the rachillae are ≤ 2 cm long.



♀ usually 3-branched, rachillae less than 3 cm long.



Fruit

2.5 cm long

2.5 cm wide

Scales very many, tiny, grey-green.

Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- *P. himalayana* (31): shorter spines in longer combs, inflorescences very different.
- Other *Plectocomia* species (30–31a): leaflets white underneath when new. Inflorescences very different.
- *Plectocomiopsis geminiflorus* (29): sheath spines not in combs, ocrea ≥ 5 cm, papery.