

# *Plectocomiopsis geminiflora* 29

(wai deng, wai dengnoy, wai nou, wai nyang, wai kamlao, nyang)

Climbing Clustering Cirrus No knee

## Look for:

- Leaf sheath spines  $\leq 2$  cm, scattered, not in combs.
- Ocrea  $\geq 5$  cm, papery, tattered.
- Leaflets regular, with one line of golden bristles above, never white underneath.



## Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 200–800 m.

## Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

Fruit ?

## Uses

Handicrafts: suitable.

Trade: unknown.

Shoot: edible.

## Planting

None known in Lao.

● *P. geminiflora* also in S Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo.



## Stem

Stem up to 50 m long and 1–3 cm diameter.

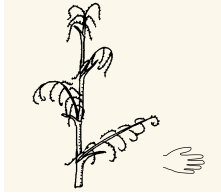
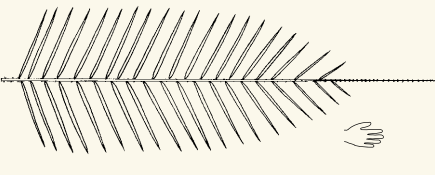
Sheath 2–6 cm diameter.

Sheath dull green with grey or reddish-brown indumentum.

Stem and sheath thin near the ground, much thicker just before flowering.

Spines golden, scattered, 0.3–1 cm.

Ocrea 5–10 cm. Pale, papery, tatters quickly.



Whole **leaf** 1.1–2 m long plus a cirrus of up to 1 m.

Petiole of upper leaves 0–6 cm long.

Largest leaflets 30–40 cm × 1.5–4 cm.

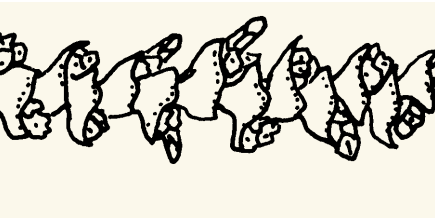
Leaflets have long hair-like tips. Middle vein prominent, with a line of golden bristles.

Margins bristly.

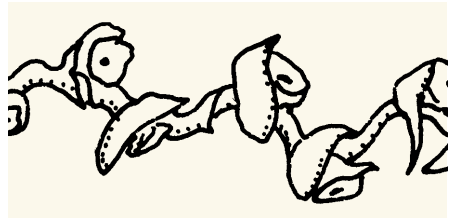
**Inflorescence** 0.4 m long with no flagellum.

Four shown in picture. Erect. Each stem flowers once then dies.

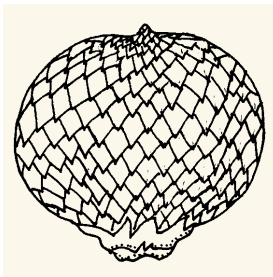
Primary bracts entire, inflated, unarmed.



♂ usually 3-branched. Rachillae  $\leq 0.5$  cm, hardly look like rachillae at all. Branch with many rachillae shown.



♀ usually 2-branched. Rachillae very short, branch with many rachillae shown.



**Fruit**

3.0 cm long

3.0 cm wide

Top-shaped. Scales chestnut-brown with pale margins.

Seed not ruminate.

### Compare:

- *Myrialepis paradoxa* (28): no ocrea, lower sheaths with spines in tall combs, no golden bristles on leaflets.
- *Plectocomia himalayana* (31): no ocrea, sheath spines in long neat combs. Inflorescences very different.
- Other *Plectocomia* species (30–31a): no ocrea, leaflets white underneath. Inflorescences very different.