

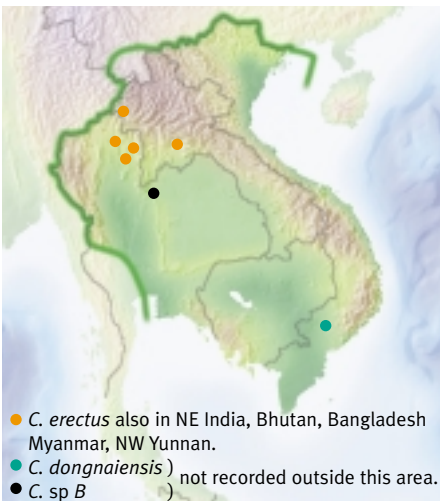
# Calamus erectus

(wai namsay, blong chintra, kok tamarr)

**Erect Clustering No climbing organ No knee**

## Look for:

- Erect habit and very deeply split leaf sheath with a pair of bristly 'ears'.
- Petiole spines long, golden, joined in combs running around the petiole.
- Fruit very large and dark on erect, well-branched inflorescences.



## Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 450 m and probably also higher. In Thailand recorded at 600–1600 m.

## Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers open 2 (Thailand).  
Fruit ripe 3, 4 (Lao), 1–2 (Thailand). May take ≥1 year to ripen.

## Uses

Handicrafts: not suitable.  
Trade: not suitable.  
Shoot: edible.

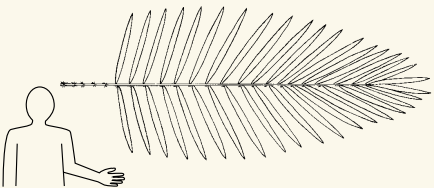
## Planting

None known in Lao.



## Stem

Stem up to 6 m tall and 3–4 cm diameter.  
Sheath 5–7 cm diameter.  
Sheath hardly tubular, dull green-brown.  
Spines many, flat, 2–5 cm long, in lines, with small black bristles to either side.  
Ocrea over 15 cm, covered in short bristles.  
Begins as a tube, soon splits to form an 'ear' on each side of the petiole.



Whole leaf 3–5 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 50–150 cm long. Petiole spines 5–15 cm, joined in combs running around the petiole.

Largest leaflets 60–80 cm × 3.5–5 cm.

Above one (rarely 2–5) veins prominent, with long or short bristles. Below, central vein may also have bristles. Margins bristly. Many large younger leaves are irregularly pinnate.

**Inflorescence** 0.5–1 m long with no flagellum. Erect, amongst petioles.

Primary bracts highly lacerated, covering base of partial inflorescences.



♂ usually 2-branched.



♀ usually 2-branched.



### Fruit

3–3.5 cm long

2–2.5 cm wide

Reddish brown with dark and light patches, deeply channelled.

Seed ruminant.

### Compare:

- *C. laoensis* (18), *C. flagellum* (19), *C. rudentum* (20) and *C. rhabdocladus* (21): all climbing.
- *C. thysanolepis* (4a): leaflets in groups of 2–6 on each side of the rachis, lying in many planes, ≤45 cm long. Rachis spines solitary. Rachillae much thinner, fruit ≤1 cm diameter

#### • 3a *Calamus dongnaiensis*

Erect, 1–3 m tall, clustering. Leaflets up to 60 × 3 cm, can be grouped. Petiole and rachis spines solitary. Inflorescence long, slender, drooping, with slender rachillae.

#### • 3b *Calamus* sp B

Leaflets strongly grouped, up to 40 × 2 cm. Rachis spines flat, black, in groups. Female rachillae 1–3 cm long, very thick, pressed against the branches. Fruit globose, 1.5 cm diameter, scales dark, unchannelled. Seed ruminant. Fruit unripe 2, 5 (Thailand). In evergreen forest at 1300–1550 m.