

Calamus tenuis

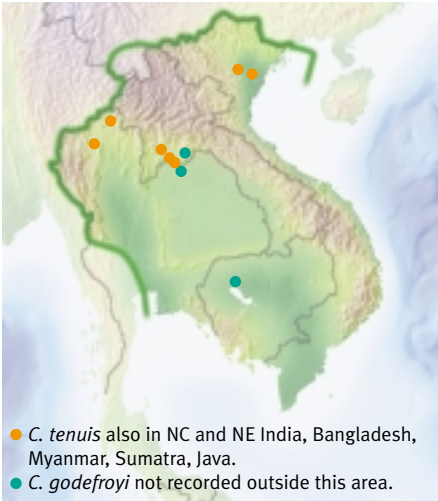
(*wai nyair, nyair*)

Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee conspicuous

The main species planted for commercial shoot production in Lao.

Look for:

- Leaf sheath with green, black-tipped spines which have downswept, crescent bases.
- Leaflets regularly arranged, with several lines of black bristles above.
- Petiole ≥ 8 cm, ocrea almost absent.



- *C. tenuis* also in NC and NE India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sumatra, Java.
- *C. godefroyi* not recorded outside this area.

Habitat

In Lao grows in scrub, often in areas which flood every year, at 200–300 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

Fruit ripe 4–5 (Lao).

Uses

Handicrafts: suitable.

Trade: suitable.

Shoot: edible.

Planting

Trial plantation at Nam Xuang, Lao. First planted for shoot production in 1994, now more than 70 ha planted from Vientiane Province southwards and spreading rapidly. Also planted in NE Thailand. Small cane plantations reported in Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Stem

Stem up to 20 m long and 0.8–1.6 cm diameter.

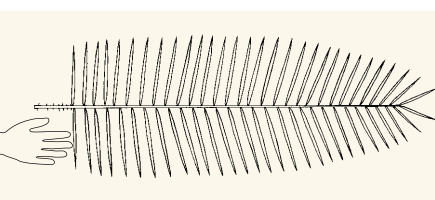
Sheath 1–2.5 cm diameter.

Sheath green, often striped white when freshly emerged.

Spines needle-like, green with a black tip, 0.5–2 cm long. Bases form downswept crescents.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.



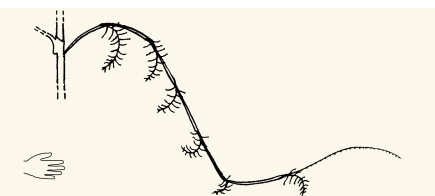


Whole **leaf** 0.6–1 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 8–15 cm long.

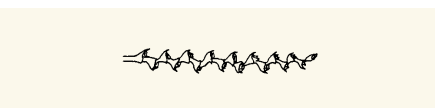
Largest leaflets 10–35 cm × 1–1.5 cm.

Three prominent veins above, all with black bristles. Below mid-vein bristly. Margins bristly. Rachis sometimes has a few claws pointing upwards.

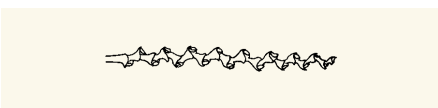


Inflorescence 1.5–2.5 m long plus flagellum. Branches pendulous.

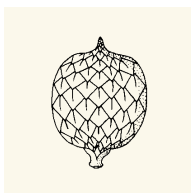
Primary bracts entire, sometimes slightly inflated.



♂ usually 2-branched.
Rachillae up to 10 cm long.



♀ usually 2-branched.
Rachillae up to 7 cm long.



Fruit

1.4 cm long

0.8 cm wide

Scales white or pale yellow with fine dark margins. Perianth has a tubular part.

Seed slightly ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. siamensis* (5): leaflets often interruptedly pinnate with one line of pale bristles above. Sheath spines yellow at base. Male rachillae very short, fruit perianth not tubular.
- *C. walkeri* (5a): ocrea short, densely bristly. Spines not crescent-shaped at the base. Male rachillae very short, fruit perianth slightly tubular.
- *C. guruba* (7): long, papery ocrea, wide, upward-pointing sheath spines, primary bracts open in flat sheets.

• 6a *Calamus godefroyi* (wai nong)

Petiole usually ≤ 3 cm, the lowest pair of leaflets pointing back across the stem. Leaflets have faint grey indumentum underneath and very few bristles on upper face. Partial inflorescences small, starting deep inside primary bract. Fruit perianth has a tubular part. Fruit ripe 8 (Lao). Grows in marshy areas.