

Calamus guruba

(wai deng)

Climbing Clustering Flagellum Knee conspicuous

An untidy looking species with conspicuous inflorescence bracts.

Look for:

- Sheath with wide and slender spines, all pointing up. Leaflets linear, regular, widely spaced.
- Ocrea conspicuous, papery, longer than 10 cm, twisted.
- Primary bracts open into wide flat sheets.



● *C. guruba* also in NC and NE India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, S Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia.

Habitat

In Lao grows in scrub forest at 100 m, often by rivers. In E Thailand recorded up to 750 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

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

Fruit unripe 12, 3 (Thailand).

Uses

Handicrafts: suitable.

Trade: unknown.

Shoot: edible.

Planting

None known in Lao.



Stem

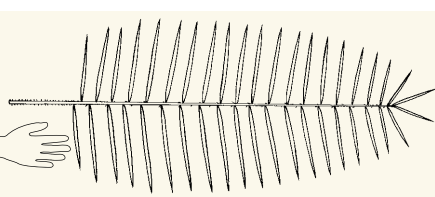
Stem up to 10 m long and 0.5–1.5 cm diameter.

Sheath 1–2.5 cm diameter.

Sheath dark green.

Spines red-brown, pointing up, some very wide and up to 3.5 cm long, others needle-like, spines near sheath mouth 5–10 cm long.

Ocrea ≥ 10 cm, red-brown, papery, with no spines or bristles, twisted, falls off easily.

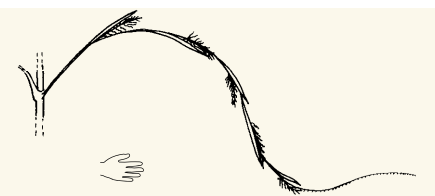


Whole **leaf** 0.6–1.5 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 10–25 cm long.

Largest leaflets 25–45 cm × 1.7–2.2 cm.

Leaflets regular, widely spaced. Above 1–3 prominent veins, some or all bristly. One or more bristly veins below.



Inflorescence 0.3–2.5 m long plus flagellum. Branches slightly pendulous.

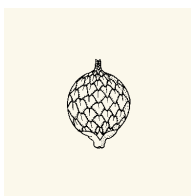
Primary bracts tubular at base, open in a wide sheet at mouth.



♂ usually 3-branched. Rachillae tiny, zigzag.



♀ usually 2-branched. Rachillae zigzag.



Fruit

0.8 cm long

0.8 cm wide

Pale yellow scales with dark margins when dry.

Seed not ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. henryanus* (11): Ocrea tiny, leaflets interrupted pinnate, primary bracts lacerated, without an open limb.
- *C. tenuis* (6): Leaf sheath striped green-white, spines crescent at base with black tip, ocrea tiny, primary bract without an open limb.
- *C. siamensis* (5): Ocrea tiny, leaflets often irregularly pinnate, close together, primary bract without an open limb.
- *C. walkeri* (5a): Ocrea short, covered in bristles, spines green with black tip, primary bract without an open limb.