

Calamus acanthospathus

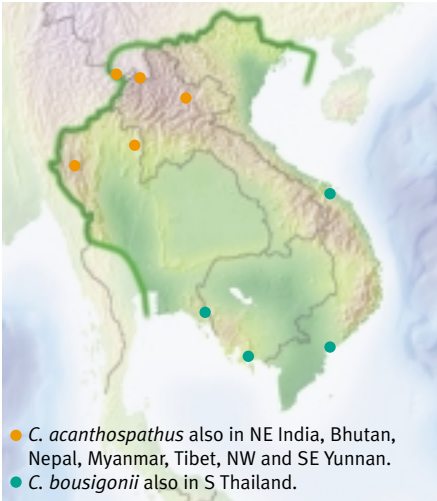
(wai hom, blong eur)

Climbing Solitary or two stems Flagellum Knee present, indistinct

A high quality small-diameter cane which may be suitable for cultivation in high-altitude areas.

Look for:

- Leaflets regularly arranged, short, wide, close together and boat-shaped.
- Sheath 1.5–2.5 cm diameter, with many needle-like spines and a short bristly ocrea.
- Grows high in the mountains.



Habitat

In Lao grows in evergreen forest at 1800 m. In Thailand at 1500–1700 m and in S Yunnan at 1600 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers in bud 2 (Thailand).
Fruit unripe 6 (Lao), ripe 4, 5 (Thailand).

Uses

Handicrafts: high quality
Trade: suitable
Shoot: unknown

Planting

None known in Lao. High potential. Planted for canes in S Yunnan.



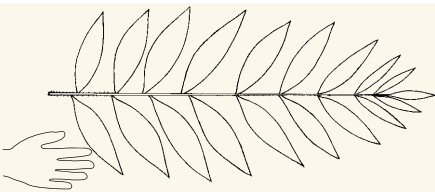
Stem

Stem up to 30 m long and 0.9 cm diameter. Sheath 1.5–2.5 cm diameter (up to 5 cm in India).

Sheath dark green with blotches of pale indumentum.

Spines many. Thin, needle-like, 0.5–1 cm long with short fat prickles in between. Break off easily right at the base.

Ocrea about 1 cm long, densely spiny.



Whole **leaf** 0.5–1 m long.

Petiole of upper leaves 1–3 cm long.

Largest leaflets 18–30 cm × 3.5–7 cm.

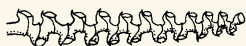
Strongly boat-shaped. Above many prominent bristly veins. Below naked.

Margins bristly. Veins finish at the tip of the leaflet.



Inflorescence 0.7–1.4 m long plus a short flagellum. Quite stiff.

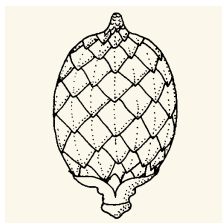
Primary bracts entire, inflated slightly to cover base of partial inflorescence.



♂ usually 2–3-branched.



♀ usually 2-branched. Wide flower cups make rachillae look a little like squid tentacles.



Fruit

2.4 cm long

1.5 cm wide

Scales yellow-green with reddish margins when unripe, dark brown when dry.

Channelled when ripe.

Seed ruminant.

Compare:

● **9a *Calamus bousigonii***

Sheath ≤1 cm diameter, petiole 6–20 cm, leaflets few, rhomboid, veins finish at the margins not the tip (see picture), fruit small and yellow when dry. Leaflets like *Korthalsia* but has a flagellum, a knee and no branches. Recorded below 700m in Vietnam and up to 1000 m in Cambodia. Flowers in bud 4, fruit ripe 8 (Vietnam).

