

***Calamus griseus* (Arecaceae), a new species of rattan from Peninsular Thailand,  
Malaysia and Sumatra**

JOHN DRANSFIELD\*

ABSTRACT. *Calamus griseus*, a new species of rattan, is described and illustrated.

***Calamus griseus*** J. Dransf., **sp. nov.**, sectionem *Coleospathum* Furtado (= sect. *Calamus*) pertinens, forma foliorum et magnitudine *C. javensi* et *C. flabellato* similis, structura rachillarum inflorescentiae *C. flabellato* persimilis sed foliolis discoloribus distinctissima. Typus: Thailand, Ranong, Kerr 11760 (holotypus K!). Fig. 1.

Slender clustering rattan; stem without sheaths ca. 5 mm diam., with sheaths 8 mm diam., internodes probably ca. 15 cm long. Leaves ecirrate; sheaths bearing scattered solitary reflexed narrow triangular spines 2–6 by 1–1.5 mm with swollen bases, and thin caducous brown tomentum; knee well developed, unarmed; flagellum to 60 cm; petiole absent; rachis 20–30 cm long, bearing scattered, reflexed curved spines to 2 by 1.5 cm with black tips and swollen bases; leaflets broadly lanceolate, rather thin, 5–6 on each side of the rachis, the proximal 2–3 reflexed across the sheathed stem, the apical two joined for ca. one half their length, and forming a group of four with two more leaflets, the other leaflets very distant and somewhat irregularly arranged, basal leaflets 4–16 by 0.7–30 cm; mid leaf leaflets 10.5–26 by 3–4.5 cm; apical leaflets 12–21 by 3–4.5 cm; upper surface of leaflets with conspicuous distant transverse veinlets, undersurface of leaflets covered in thin grey tomentum. Inflorescence flagelliform, only pistillate known, to at least 112 cm long, with at least 2 partial inflorescences; bracts strictly tubular, tightly sheathing, with triangular tips and bearing scattered and rather sparse reflexed spines to 2 by 1 mm, with scattered brown indumentum between; lower partial inflorescence emerging 62 cm above the base of the inflorescence; partial inflorescences to at least 45 cm long, with long flagelliform tips, and 2–3 distant rachillae on each side; rachillae held  $\pm$  at right angles to the subtending axis, to 4.5 by 2 mm; rachilla bracts distichous, triangular, ca. 2.5 by 2 mm, obscurely striate and with scattered pale indumentum and sparsely ciliate margins; involucrophore and involucre similar, forming a cup ca. 2 mm diam., scar of sterile staminate flower ca. 1 by 0.5 mm. Remains of pistillate flower with sepals triangular 2.5 by 1.5 mm, with pale shiny margin; petals 3 by 1.5 mm, obscurely striate with broad shiny margin. Immature fruit ovoid to broadly ellipsoid, 7 by 4 mm with a beak 2 by 1 mm; scales in 20 vertical rows, pale brown with mid brown margins and central marking and pale tips.

---

\*Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB UK



Fig. 1. *Calamus griseus* J. Dransf. A. Sheathed stem, leaf and flagellum  $\times 1.45$ ; B. Base of petiole and flagellum  $\times 1.45$ ; C. Part of infructescence  $\times 1.45$ ; D. Immature fruit  $\times 9.78$ . Drawn by Soejatmi Dransfield from Kerr 11760.

T h a i l a n d.— PENINSULAR: Ranong [Lam Lieng, 2 Feb. 1927, *Kerr* 11760 (holotype K); "a valuable rattan – wai chumpawn"].

D i s t r i b u t i o n.— Peninsular Malaysia, Pahang [Tasek Bera, east side, 25 Oct. 1982, *R. Gianno* A645 (K)]; Sumatra, Sumatera Utara [Langkat, Bohorok, Bukit Lawang, 19 Feb. 1973, *Dransfield* JD 3231 (BH, BO, K, L)].

E c o l o g y.— Evergreen forest; 50–300 m.

N o t e s.— This is a very distinctive taxon that remains poorly known. Superficially the leaflet arrangement is reminiscent of *Calamus javensis* and *C. flabellatus*, both members of Furtado's section *Coleospathus* (= section *Calamus*) to which the new taxon also belongs. Inflorescence structure is much closer to that of *C. flabellatus*. However, the species is immediately distinguishable from these two in the presence of white indumentum on the undersurface of the leaflets. White or grey indument on the lower surface of leaflets is an unusual character within *Calamus*. In Thailand only the following taxa display this state – *C. myrianthus* Becc., *C. leucotes* Becc., *C. caesius* Blume, *C. arborescens* Griff. and *C. castaneus* Griff. None of these taxa belongs to section *Calamus* to which *C. griseus* belongs; the first two belong to section *Platyspathus*, distinctive in their tattering laminar primary bracts in the inflorescence, *C. caesius* belongs to section *Phyllanthectus*, with cirrate leaves, while *C. arborescens* and *C. castaneus* are acaulescent or treelike palms, the first included by Furtado in section *Platyspathus*, the second in section *Podocephalaus*, neither placement being appropriate.