



Calamus kebariensis (Arecaceae)—a new montane rattan from New Guinea

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Abstract

Calamus kebariensis (Arecaceae or Palmae), a new species of rattan from the Bird's Head Peninsula in West Papua, Indonesia, is described and illustrated. This species, which, among the New Guinea *Calamus* species, most closely resembles *C. cuthbertsonii* and *C. spanostachys*, is distinguished by its short and extremely slender stems, finely pinnate leaves and short, erect inflorescences that are branched to one order only in pistillate specimens.

Key words: lianas, palms, Papuaasia, taxonomy, South-East Asia, rattans

Introduction

During fieldwork in the Bird's Head Peninsula of West Papua, Indonesia, a team involving counterparts from the State University of Papua, Herbarium Bogoriense and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew made many records of palms, especially rattans in the genus *Calamus* Linnaeus (1753: 325). One poorly collected locality, Mt. Nutoti in the Kebar Valley, yielded about nine species of *Calamus* growing in montane vegetation. After extensive morphological comparisons in key herbaria (A, BH, BM, BO, BRI, CANB, L, LAE, K, MAN, MEL, NY, WRSL; acronyms following Thiers 2013) during taxonomic work for the Palms of New Guinea project (Baker 2002), the authors have found that one of these species is new to science and is described here.

Taxonomic treatment

Calamus kebariensis Maturb., J.Dransf. & W.J.Baker, *sp. nov.* Type:—INDONESIA. West Papua: Kebar, Mt. Nutoti, 1240 m, 5 May 1995, *Maturbongs 73* (holotype K!, isotype MAN!)

Diagnosis:—Distinguished by its extremely slender, short stems, which lack flagella, the finely pinnate, ecirrate leaves, the almost entirely unarmed leaf sheaths and the short, erect inflorescence, that is branched to only one order in pistillate material.

Very slender, clustering rattan, erect, to 1.5 m. **Stem** with sheaths 3–5 mm diam., without sheaths 1.5–3.5 mm diam.; internodes 4–10.5 cm. **Leaf** ecirrate to 36 cm long including petiole; sheath green, with thin, patchy indumentum of brown, caducous scales, unarmed or very sparsely armed with minute spines along zone of adnation between inflorescence and sheath; knee 6.5–9 mm long, inconspicuous, unarmed; ocrea to 5 mm high, scarcely developed, tightly sheathing, densely armed with fine brown bristles, with brown indumentum similar to that of the sheath; flagellum absent in available material; petiole 4–10 cm, 1.5–2 mm wide and 1–2 mm thick at base, with scattered brown indumentum similar to that of the sheath, unarmed; rachis 9.5–16 cm, straight, with few, minute, reflexed spines on abaxial surface; leaflets 10–16 each side of rachis, regularly arranged, narrowly elliptic to linear, longest leaflets at mid-leaf position, mid-leaf leaflets 6.5–9 × 0.4–1 cm, apical leaflets 7–7.5 × 0.4–0.5 cm, apical leaflet pair not or scarcely united at base, with fine spines on margin and adaxial surface of major veins

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