



Nomenclatural notes on Indian *Calamus* (Arecaceae)

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Abstract

Several changes are proposed for Indian species of *Calamus*: *C. basui* is placed in synonymy under *C. baratangensis*; *C. delessertianus* is placed in synonymy under *C. tenuis*; *C. dransfieldii*, *C. lacciferus*, *C. neelagiricus*, *C. prasinus*, *C. renukae*, and *C. shendurunii* are considered members of a species complex and are placed in synonymy under *C. gamblei*; *C. nicobaricus* is placed in synonymy under *C. pseudorivalis*; *C. pseudofeanus* is shown to be based on a mixed collection and is placed in synonymy under *C. vattayila*; *C. travancoricus* is placed in synonymy under *C. rheedei*; and *C. semierectus* is placed in synonymy under *C. andamanicus*.

Key words: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India, Palmae, rattans, Western Ghats

Calamus Linnaeus (1753: 325) is widely distributed from India eastwards to Fiji, with one disjunct species in tropical Africa. The highest concentration of species is in the Asian tropics, especially in the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, and Sumatra, with other centers of diversity in Indochina and New Guinea. The only monograph of the whole genus is that of Beccari (1908, 1913, 1914). These monumental works are unrivalled for their clarity and detail, but are now out-of-date. Beccari recognized 256 species, whereas about 400 are now recognized, making *Calamus* by far the largest genus of palms. Although various regional treatments have been published recently (e.g., Renuka & Sreekumar 2012 for India), there is no comprehensive revision of the whole genus. Because of this, and because of its economic importance as a source of rattan cane, Henderson is currently carrying out a revision of the genus.

One of the earliest treatments of Indian palms was that of Roxburgh (1832) in his *Flora Indica*. Sixteen species of *Calamus* were included, seven of which are currently recognized. Griffith (1845) greatly expanded the number of palm species known from India, including 12 new species of Indian *Calamus*, four of which are now recognized. More recently, Basu (1992) summarized knowledge of rattans of India, recognizing 41 species of *Calamus*. Renuka & Sreekumar (2012) produced a field guide to the palms of India, in which they recognized 46 species of *Calamus*. We have recently examined specimens in herbaria of several species from the Western Ghats and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and propose the following changes.

Calamus basui Renuka & Vijayakumaran (1994b: 120)

Calamus basui from the Little Andamans was said by Renuka & Vijayakumaran (1994b) to differ from other members of Beccari's (1908) Group V by its leaf sheath spines, vestigial cirrus, and ovoid fruits with ruminant endosperm. Examination of the type and another specimen from the Little Andamans, *Linto 25013*, shows them to be the same as *C. baratangensis* Renuka & Vijayakumaran (1994a: 141). In particular, the supposed vestigial cirrus is in fact the filiform extension of the rachis seen in many rattan specimens (although it usually breaks off), including those of *C. baratangensis*. The leaf sheath spines of *Linto 25013* are exactly those of *C. baratangensis*. We therefore propose the following:

Calamus semierectus Renuka & Vijayakumaran (1994b: 122). Type:—INDIA. Car Nicobar, near the jetty, sea level, 7 April 1993, C. Renuka & T. Vijayakumaran 7037 (holotype KFRI!).

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