



Plate 33 *I. perdana*: Inflorescence interfoliar, with rachillae thick and long.

paniculate with many branches, 10-14, often sub-branching, usually profuse in flower or fruit; fruit ovoid (also known to be curved), white, pink tinged, ripening red; seed not ridged.

Found on hill forest slopes at alt. c. 800m, not seen on lower locations, its solitary habit and more robust erect stem sets it apart, as does the profuse inflorescence (though sometimes sparse in poor soil conditions), flowering from 1m to 4m or more. Not uncommon but endangered by logging along the E.W. Highway, it has so far been encountered only in isolation from other *Iguanura* taxa, although *I. bicornis*, *I. wallichiana* and *I. geonomiformis* have been seen at similar altitude. In the Belum FR, other sympatric palm species include *Pinanga subintegra* var., *P. simplicifrons*, *P. perakensis*, *P. malaiana*, *Nenga macrocarpa* and *Johannesteijsmannia altifrons*. In that area, visited over four years, *I. polymorpha* has not been found at this altitude, although to the east and west, at lower levels, that taxon abounds, and also to the north (probably extending into Thailand), where robust colonies of the clustering relative are dominant.

On G. Bubu, a specimen collected in 1972 at 1000m (*Evans* 722, UPM) displayed curved fruit, but in another (*FSP Ng FRI 6134*) they were ovoid. Like others, the fine specimen with robust stems from Bujang Melaka (*Shah* 3369) was thought to be *I. polymorpha*. The epithet *belumensis* was chosen for the locality in which we found it in 1989, and used (ined.), for purposes of herbarium depositions; the choice becomes especially appropriate in the light of more recent national conservation efforts in the type area.

*Distribution:* Perak.

Type: Perak: Belum FR, 1992, *C.K. Lim H 1281* (holotype KEP)

Reference Collections:-

**Perak**, Bujang Melaka, 1975, *Mohd. Shah* 3369 SING; G. Bubu, 1966, *Whitmore FRI 633* KEP, SING; *F.S.P. Ng FRI 6134* KEP; *Evans* 722 UPM; Belum FR, *C.K. Lim H 64, H 122, H 531, H 606, H 621, H 787, H 800, H 991, H 1128, H 1153, H 1163, H 1195, H 1243, H 1277, H 1306, H 1438, H 1466, H 1468, H 1472* PSM Collection.

**15. *Iguanura perdana* C.K. Lim sp. nov.**

*Affinis I. bicorni sed habitu solitario raro caespitoso; elatior, erecta ad 4.5m, laminiis majoribus inflorescentiis robustis fructa non bicorni, excentrico apico plano bene distincta. Typus:* Perak: Kroh, 1992, *C.K. Lim, H 1125* (holotypus KEP)



Plate 34 *I. perdana*: Type specimen: Perak: Kroh, 1992, C.K.Lim H1125 (KEP)



Plate 35 *I. perdana*: Leaves large to 100cm, pinnate forms with trapezoidal or parallel-sided leaflets.

Usually solitary, rarely with basal branches, stilt-rooted, stem greyish brown, erect, 1.8cm diam., robust, erect, to 4.5m; internodes 4-5cm, leaves abscissing, large 100cm x 50cm, pinnate with two forms of leaflets, few (six pairs) broadly flaring distally or numerous (15-17 pairs) narrowly parallel-sided, petiole 20cm, leaf sheath 29cm, green with brown indumentum; often persisting in inflorescence thereby remaining interfoliar, rachillae stout, succulent, nine to ten branches, to 45cm long with 30cm peduncle; flowers widely spaced, relatively large; fruit (only one seen to date), unripe yellow, pink, like *bicornis* but eccentric, with flat top, not two-lobed.

This tantalising taxon needs to be described and recorded even if somewhat incompletely, in view of its rarity; we have only found less than ten plants in one threatened locality. Although it is within a Forest Reserve, adjacent felling and land schemes may affect its survival. It grows sympatrically, with the common *I. bicornis* and the new *I. wallichiana* var. *rosea*. The very large leaves are a third to twice the size of the adjacent *I. bicornis*, usually trapezoidal, but another pinnate form has been seen with parallel-sided leaflets. The inflorescences are signally different, lingering (perhaps because of size) among the leaf sheaths, which are of the abscissing type, leaving clean scars, but are more fibrous, and appear to persist in support of the stout but gangling rachillae. The unique fruit collected was somewhat like a dirty tooth, irregular but not bigibbous. This sampling is incomplete, but other characteristics set this taxon apart not only from *I. bicornis* and *I. polymorpha* but also from *I. belumensis*.

The population is certainly not sterile, as seedlings and the one tantalisingly solitary fruit collected prove. It is indeed an imposing erect taxon, and the epithet, which means prime (in Malay), alludes at attributes which a leader *primus inter pares*, should have.

*Distribution:* Perak; damp hill slopes, alt. 500m.

*Type:* Perak: Kroh, 1992, C.K. Lim H 1125, (holotype KEP)

Reference Collections:-

**Perak**, Kroh, H 1507 SING; C.K. Lim H 1254, H 1366, H 1412, H 1572 PSM Collection.

## 16. *Iguanura mirabilis* C.K. Lim sp. nov.

*A ceteris speciebus malaysianis foliis integris valde plicatis, pedunculo brevi, fructibus curvatis differt. Typus:* Terengganu: Ulu Setiu, 1993, C.K. Lim H 1448 (holotypus KEP).